

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SINCE 1877
MAY 13, 2004

VOL. 128
NO. 20

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

In today's world, people receive information through images and sound bites. In order for churches to be on the cutting edge of reaching the lost, media is just one more method of bringing Mississippians and the world to Jesus.



AWARD RECIPIENTS — Awards were given at the annual Witnessing through Media Workshop and banquet at First Church, Jackson, April 30. Recipients accepting awards for their respective ministries, from left, were Walley Kennedy, Director of Food Management Solutions and member of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; Jonathan Chaney, member of Christ United Methodist Church, Jackson; Maurice Kelly, Media Director, First Church, Greenville; John Padgett, Media Director, First Church, Hattiesburg; and Rusty Holcomb, Media Director, Christ United Methodist Church, Jackson. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting sponsored Witnessing through Media Workshops April 30 - May 1 at First Church, Jackson. This group consists of the Communications Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) as well as a steering committee drawn from around the state. The workshops were designed to give training and support to churches wishing to

start media ministries, as well as meeting the needs of churches with existing ministries. The event provided inspiration and fellowship for the participants, as well as giving recognition to ministries of excellence from around the state.

Conferences included training in camera operation, photoshop graphics, directing, web design, production, sound advice,

and media as a ministry. Program personalities included Farrell Blankenship, retired director, Broadcast Services, MBCB; Tony Brooks, Senior Audio Engineer, First Church, Jackson; Lynn Bullock, Lynn Bullock Productions, Jackson; Anthony Coppedge, Church Ministry Consultant, Bedford, Tex.; J. C. Howell, Image Media Designer, Southern Farm Bureau Casualty, Jackson; John Padgett, Media Director, First Church, Hattiesburg; Ian Richardson, Director, Communications Services, MBCB; and Ken Sims, Sales Consultant, Mission Service Supply, Ridgeland.

Richardson offered several hints to churches wishing to begin or improve their media ministries. What would a church need to do if they were establishing a media ministry for the first time?

"First, a church needs to determine if

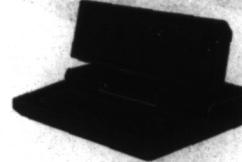
they want to use a local cable station or to broadcast their services," said Richardson. "They would need to look at the logistics of getting a signal to their provider. They should determine the equipment needed. They might need help with lighting or broadcast sound — this can be a lengthy process, and a lot of research needs to be done into their needs.

"Our Broadcast Services Department [of the MBCB] does that," Richardson pointed out. "We are available for consultation or seminars for those who have a media ministry. We can present a seminar describing what media ministry is, what a church needs to do to get started. We can come evaluate what's there."

The awards presentation is a highlight of the annual event. Awards are given in two divisions. Awards this year went to The United Methodist Hour of Mississippi for "Time that Makes the Difference," best first-time entry, Division II; Christ United Methodist Church for "No More Excuses," best radio spot, Division II; Colonial Heights Church, Jackson for "I Love America Celebration — Honor Our Heroes," best program church musicals, Division I; First, Hattiesburg, for "The Great Kingdom Caper - VBS", best TV spot, Division II; Christ United Methodist Church, "Sing Noel," best program church musicals, Division II; First, Hattiesburg, "Journey of Faith," best program community service, Division II; First, Greenville, for "Mission Mexico", best program missions/evangelism, Division II; First, Greenville, for "Fear Not," most creative video, Division II; and a special certificate of recognition to First, Biloxi.

For more information on the work of the Communications Service Department, contact Richardson at (601) 292-3290, or toll-free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651, ext. 290. E-mail irichardson@mbcb.org.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601) 968-3800. Fax: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 128 NUMBER 20
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

How will it affect the casinos?

All in all, it's been a very good couple of weeks for the gambling/political complex in Mississippi.

To start, the creation of the first of what is expected to be a flood of gambling-related degrees at Mississippi's public universities was approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) — also known as the State College Board. In doing so by a unanimous vote (with three absences), the IHL trustees circumvented present state law that prohibits gambling courses at the state's public universities, as well as the Mississippi Constitution under which the Mississippi Legislature banned gambling courses in the first place.

Trustees even ignored a 1997 opinion from then-Mississippi Attorney General Mike Moore that the teaching of gambling courses was clearly banned by state law. They rushed the vote for the degree before sitting Attorney General Jim Hood could generate an updated opinion, and before new incoming trustees could be seated in the next few weeks.

In effect, the unelected IHL trustees' actions mean they have supplanted our elected officials as the highest governing authority in Mississippi — at least where the state's universities are concerned — and unilaterally arrogated unto themselves constitutional power reserved for those elected officials.

One of the most absorbing aspects of this well-planned maneuver to get gambling courses into the schools is that not a single legislator has raised a whisper about the IHL trustees' power grab at their expense — this from a body of lawmakers that normally safeguards with zeal every shred of power granted to them under the Mississippi Constitution.

Secondly, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour — on the job all of four months — promised attendees at the annual Southern Gaming Summit May 5 on the Gulf Coast that he was adamantly opposed to any

new taxes on gambling revenues and also had no intention of backing state lottery proposals.

"I'm against raising taxes, period," he told the crowd, referring to his longstanding opposition to tax increases of any kind. Still, his pronouncement had to be music to the casino owners' ears and came at a time when gambling revenues are obscenely high and state government income is desperately low.

Lastly, Mississippi Gaming Commission Chairman Len Blackwell told the summiteers that the time has come for the state's houses of gambling to move off the riverbanks and beaches and on to dry land.

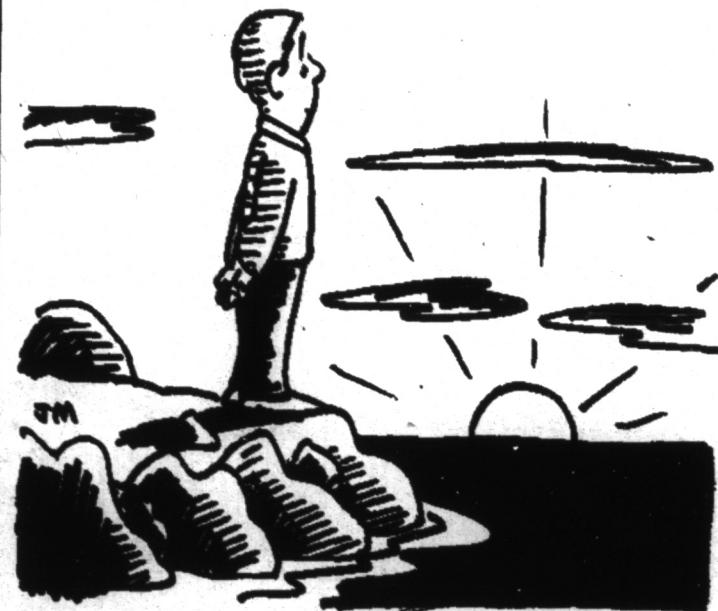
"Our laws are good and our regulations are good, but casinos don't need to be floating," Blackwell was quoted as stating by The Clarion-Ledger newspaper. He would also like to eventually see off-track betting on horse races and dog races come to Mississippi casinos.

Apparently, the Mississippi Gaming Commission is just as interested — if not more interested — in promoting and protecting the gambling industry as it is in regulating the industry.

The era is dawning in Mississippi when every decision inside state and local governments will have to be made on the consideration of how the gambling industry will be affected. Thus the gambling/political complex in Mississippi grows more powerful every day.

Your local system of roads and sewers may need updating but the question must first be asked, "How will that

"DEAR LORD, I HAVEN'T DONE A VERY GOOD JOB LATELY OF TELLING YOU HOW IMPRESSED I AM WITH YOUR ARTISTRY."



affect the casinos?" Maybe your local school system needs a bond issue to build new facilities for your children, but the question must be asked, "How will that affect the casinos?"

When legislators are compelled to consider new sources of revenue to prop up an ailing budget, the question must be asked, "How will that affect the casinos?" When virtually any issue pops up at any level of Mississippi government or commerce, the question must be asked, "How will that affect the casinos?"

The takeover of our lifestyle, based on the Nevada model, is almost complete.

GUEST OPINION:

Adults drive away youngest athletes

By Tim Ellsworth, BP Sports Writer



Two stories in the news caught my attention this week, and provide further evidence of how much better youth sports would be if adults weren't often there to mess them up.

The first story is about a middle school basketball coach in Pleasantville, N.J., who was senseless enough to give one of his players a Crybaby Award at a season-ending banquet.

According to USA Today, James Guillen, age 24, had a trophy made for 13-year-old Terrence Philo Jr. with a baby on top and the words, Crybaby Award. Guillen presented the award to the boy in front of about 25 parents and teammates.

The school board voted to fire Guillen for his actions, although the legality of that firing is being questioned. The coach has yet to talk publicly about the incident.

Talk about classless. How on earth can a coach even get an idea to do something like this? Even if Guillen meant the trophy to be taken in jest and without malice, an awards banquet like this is

certainly not the time to make such a presentation.

In another story, also from New Jersey, a soccer mom has been charged with assault for her role in a brawl between two girls soccer teams.

According to the Asbury Park Press, Mary Palm, age 40, ran onto the field and assaulted a teenage girl when a fight broke out between the two teams. While others were trying to stop the fight, Palm was contributing to it.

"She was on this girl, straddling her, hitting her with her fists," one woman said of the incident. "The woman had been screaming throughout the game."

The report said Palm was

charged with simple assault and "could face a grand jury investigation under a state statute that makes violent behavior at sporting and other community-sanctioned events a fourth-degree crime."

Stories like these are surfacing more and more regularly. Coaches show incredibly poor judgment in dealing with their players. Parents — obsessed with their children's sports activities — work themselves into a furor over a game that's supposed to be played for enjoyment.

I've written before about how kids are losing interest in organized sports largely because adults are ruining the experience for them. One story

in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch a couple of years ago addressed this very issue and cited studies from Michigan State University as proof.

"One study found that a little more than 30 million children, ages 3 to 14, step onto playing fields each year, and 70 million parents and 3.5 million coaches stand along the sidelines," the story read. "Most of those children play to have fun, to be with friends and to learn, the study found. But by age 14, more than two-thirds of them have quit playing because it has become such a negative experience — the fault of adults."

It's sad that adults — those who should be responsible enough to know better — are the ones driving kids away from sports, but when adults are acting like the two mentioned above, it's hard to blame kids for losing interest.

Ellsworth is a former editor of the Illinois Baptist newspaper and regular columnist for BPSports, online at www.bpsports.net. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Visit his weblog at www.thewinningspirit.blogspot.com.

Religious violence flares anew on Ambon

LONDON (BP) — Sectarian violence has erupted again in Ambon, one of Indonesia's Maluku Islands, dealing a blow to the tentative Muslim-Christian dialogue that had brought several months of relative peace to the area, Compass Direct news service reported May 5.

The flashpoint for the latest outbreak came April 25 when the independence party FKM-RMS (Moluccas Sovereignty Front) celebrated its 54th anniversary by hoisting banned flags. The ensuing violence has left more than 25 dead, 80 wounded, and 200 homes burned down, according to Compass Direct.

Muslims see the RMS as an arm of the Christian community, seeking independence from the central government. Churches have denied any involvement with the RMS, but their denials have gone unheeded, leading to renewed fighting between Muslim and Christian communities.

Two churches were destroyed in the recent violence, the most recent being the Nazareth Church, which went up in flames the night of May 3. The Christian University in Ambon city, largely rebuilt after attacks in previous conflicts, was set afire April 27.

National television broadcasts showed Christians gathering outside police headquarters with tears in their eyes, singing national songs in an attempt to

demonstrate their allegiance to the undivided Republic of Indonesia. Spokesmen for the crowd said Christians were not second-class citizens and should have their rights protected against activists and criminals.

"Provocation" by "third parties" as the best explanation for the recent violence in Ambon, the newspaper reported, according to Compass Direct.

Sigit Pamudji of the Bishops Council of Indonesia (KWI) said he believed "certain parties" had provoked the conflict for their own benefit and were trying to make other people think that the Moluccan people could not solve their own problems.

Religious leaders also met with Ambonese authorities and political leaders on April 27 to discuss strategies to end the conflict. Christian leaders were quick to point out that the small independence faction FKM-RMS was not at the center of the violence; its protests were peaceful and members had no resources or arms for such activity.

However, Compass Direct noted, Mozes Tuankotta, the general secretary of the FKM-RMS, was detained by police after the flag-raising incident.

Some observers believe activists are taking advantage of the confusion to burn, kill and loot in order to halt the peace process.

At present, the violence appears to be restricted to the city of Ambon and has not spread to outlying villages.

A meeting of national religious leaders took place in Jakarta on April 27, according to the Jakarta Post. Muslim, Protestant, Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist and Confucian leaders from the Indonesian Committee for Religion and Peace cited

the confusion to burn, kill and loot in order to halt the peace process.

At present, the violence appears to be restricted to the city of Ambon and has not spread to outlying villages.

The Jakarta-based newspaper Republika quoted Ja'far Umar Thalib, the leader of Laskar Jihad (a banned Muslim activist group), as saying he was ready to send his men to Ambon to protect the undivided Republic of Indonesia if police and other security forces could not control the conflict. Observers say that Thalib's intervention with Laskar Jihad troops in the previous conflict prolonged the violence, rather than resolving it.

In recent days, hundreds of Muslims and Christians have fled their homes in the still-divided Ambon city, leaving them at the mercy of wandering arsonists. Small groups armed with machetes and sticks, meanwhile, stood guard at hastily erected street barricades at the entrance to the Muslim and Christian sectors of town. Only a few stalls in the market dared to open for business, selling only the essentials.

Thirty-one doctors have been sent to Ambon to help with the crisis, Compass Direct reported, and a contingent of 400 military police also has been dispatched to the area, three of whom are now numbered among the casualties. The government also planned to bring in approximately 600 soldiers as reinforcements.



NO CHANGE — Christian demonstrators protest outside the provincial governor's office in Ambon City, Indonesia, in early 2001. Like then, Ambon's Christian residents today want to know why the government offers them little protection from deadly attacks by well-equipped Muslim "jihad" warriors, backed by elements of the Indonesian military. (BP photo)



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

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Authorities continue to cope with the numerous after-effects of sectarian violence that first erupted in 1999. They have built housing for a large number of the estimated 36,000 refugees still living in refugee camps. However, camp residents say the new houses are too small for families and water and electricity supplies are inadequate. Many of them have refused to leave the refugee camps, which they claim have better amenities.

Refugees have been warned to leave the temporary camps and move into the new housing within the next two months or face eviction. An influx of new refugees from the current fighting may cause further headaches for local authorities.

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Looking back

10 years ago

The George Gallup organization publishes a study which states American teens are nearly evenly divided over the issue of abortion rights, but a majority believe teens should have to obtain parental consent before having an abortion. Support for abortion was strongest in the East, but weakest in the South.

20 years ago

The Baptist Book Store in downtown Jackson plans to move to the Westland Plaza Shopping Center in west Jackson. Store manager Charles McGlocklin says he believes the new store will possibly be the largest local sales floor among all 65 Baptist Book Stores.

30 years ago

Vernon Boatman, 13-year-old son of Hamilton Boatman, is licensed to preach in the morning worship service of the Kilmichael Church on a recent Sunday. He was licensed by the church after the pastor and deacons had unanimously reported their confidence in him and their belief in the reality of his call.

Hearing slated

BOSTON (BP) — Pro-family groups have won a small victory and will be allowed to argue before a Massachusetts Superior Court judge May 12 that the controversial same-sex marriage ruling should be dismissed. First, though, the groups must convince the judge that they should be allowed to intervene. The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), the Law and Liberty Institute, and a Boston lawyer are representing former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn and Massachusetts businessman Thomas A. Shields. Flynn and Shields want to see the ruling by the Massachusetts high court — called the Supreme Judicial Court — dismissed. The ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, handed down last November, is set to take effect May 17. ADF attorney Glenn Lavy, who will make oral arguments, said being granted the hearing is a step forward. "That was God's grace to get the hearing," he told Baptist Press. "That was an answer to prayer." Lavy will argue that the state constitution gives the judicial branch no authority over marriage. The Superior Court is two steps below the Supreme Judicial Court. In its decision last year the state high court remanded the case to the Superior Court for entry of judgment. "The term 'marriage' is in the Massachusetts Constitution, and it's clear that only the people of Massachusetts have proper authority to amend the Constitution," Lavy said in a statement. "If the Superior Court enters a judgment redefining marriage, it will effectively have amended the Constitution." The judge that will hear the arguments is different from the one that initially heard the case and ruled against same-sex marriage, Lavy said. That decision was appealed.

Slain worker remembered at Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP and local reports) — Six weeks after the attack that killed her husband David McDonnell



REMEMBERING DAVID — Amy Nobles (right) talks with Carrie McDonnell at a reception following the Southwestern Seminary memorial service for McDonnell's husband David, who was killed March 15 along with three other International Mission Board humanitarian workers in a drive-by ambush near Mosul, Iraq. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

and three other International Mission Board (IMB) humanitarian workers in Iraq, Carrie McDonnell stood with the aid of a walker before a gathering of colleagues, family, and friends at a memorial service for her husband.

She was in a coma on a medivac flight en route to the United States when David was buried in Colorado in March. Since then, McDonnell has been hospitalized and in rehabilitation recovering from her wounds. It was her first opportunity to participate in a service for her husband.

"We have come to celebrate my husband's life," she told those gathered in the chapel at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Carrie McDonnell was the lone survivor of the March 15 attack that killed her husband, Karen Watson, and Larry and Jean Elliott. All were humanitarian workers serving under the auspices of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. They were attacked in a drive-by ambush near Mosul. To date, no one has been arrested for the murders.

While there were tears and sorrow at McDonnell's service, the tone was one of celebration. David McDonnell was known for his humor and for a vigorous life lived on the edge. Two songs written in his honor were sung, one delivered via the Internet from a co-worker in the Middle East.

Video clips were shown, one produced by students who knew McDonnell when he was a student at the seminary celebrated his storytelling.

IMB President Jerry Rankin told the gathering that the gunmen who shot McDonnell "... could not take what he had already given." Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary, awarded a posthumous degree of Master of Arts in missiology on behalf of the faculty and trustees.

Memorial services for others killed in the March 15 attack — Watson of Bakersfield, Calif., and the Elliotts of Cary, N.C. — were held later that month.

Eight IMB workers have been murdered in a span of a little over two years.

OUR LIFE'S WORK

No doubt many of you have been reading the articles in The Baptist Record written by the associate editor Tony Martin, telling of the life and work of Arthur Flake. I suppose there are a few men in history, maybe Robert Rakes and possibly another, who would be as identified with Sunday School and Sunday School growth as Arthur Flake.

From the age of 31 when he came to know Jesus as his Lord until his death, Flake lived with a passion for the Sunday School to reach out and bring people in not only to the church but to know the Lord. Flake's Formula, as it became known, was a plan of action to prepare people to reach out, get the facilities ready to accommodate people, find the prospects, and go after them.

As a deacon and Sunday School Director at First Church, Winona, he set out to put in place the principles and even more important, the passion to go after folks. He was purpose driven in the Kingdom of God before there ever was a book written by that name and it was a purpose and a drive that never seemed to relinquish. In time, people recognized the hand of God on his life and this layman, salesman, and churchman was called on by others and eventually by the Southern Baptist Convention to come, lead, and help churches all across the nation know how to go about reaching people and help them to grow through Bible study, discipleship, and Sunday School.

Our Sunday School Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has led out in putting together, updating, and energizing the principles of Arthur Flake in a booklet titled, Flake's Formula for the Future. We all have had a reawakening to what this man did and continues to do though many do not even know who he was, what he did, or the influence that he continues to have.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The Civil War was one year into the battles when Arthur Flake was born and 90 years later, when I was in the second grade, he passed away. In my research I discovered that Arthur Flake is buried in Baldwyn. So, nothing would do except for me to find that cemetery and that grave marker which marks the place where his earthly body rests. I had talked to several people who knew where he was buried in Baldwyn, but did not know exactly where. Then I talked to some folks who knew where the gravesite was. Following their directions I went out on the edge of Baldwyn to the Masonic Cemetery and began wandering around in the old gravesites thinking I would discover his resting place and indeed I did! It was in an area that was marked off by granite curbing and it said on the large monument, "Flake-Nelson." Then, looking down, I saw a small granite marker for his wife, Lena Nelson Flake, and beside it a marker that said, "Arthur Flake, 1862-1952." That's all it said.

I stood there staring down at the marker that is now over 50 years old and thought about my own disappointment — "Is this all there is?" Yes, that was all there was, just a small grave marker with the dates covering 90 years. There was not a word about this man and who he really was, or the service that he gave to the Lord, or the impact that he had on the Kingdom of God, not only in the Southern Baptist Convention, but

around the world! Not a word about Sunday School, or of reaching children, or of being the best you can be as you come prepared to teach a lesson on what God's Word says to our needs. Not a word!

He wrote books and articles and books have been written about him and his work, but none of that is even intimated at the cemetery. His life is over and so that is the end of it. Well, no, not really! For as I continued to stand there and think about all that he had done and what he had meant to so many in his lifetime and beyond. I thought that no grave marker could ever begin to tell the story of what God did through a man's life. Then, I thought of the beautiful word given to us in Revelation by the Apostle John when the Scripture says, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth and forevermore, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

When we serve the living Lord Jesus, just as His work goes on through us, our work continues beyond us planted in the lives of people we touch and harvested in the things that we have done for Kingdom purposes. It just goes on, and on, and on! God who keeps the records for all of the plans, and then the faithfulness and effectiveness of our lives, knows how many families, how many boys and girls, and how many lost folks and unchurched folks have been reached because of the stirrings of excitement and the devotion to the mission of Jesus pushed forward by Arthur Flake.

As I stood there looking at Arthur Flake's tombstone and as I reflected on my momentary disappointment, I later began to think how appropriate it was. The tombstone does not need to tell the story of a man's life, for it cannot. In this case, it would not even begin in a small way to tell how far reaching his influence has been for our Lord.

I recall, some years ago, as I was in a cemetery, I was told by someone to go over and look at a marker of a man who had attained great success in life and so I did. Actually, I had never heard of the man though people in the area were aware of him. So, when I went over to his grave, I stood there beneath a huge monument and attached to it was a monstrous bronze plaque detailing all of the things he had accomplished in life. No doubt he was a great leader and had accomplished many things. He was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and he had a stellar career in the Army rising all the way to the status of a four-star General and became the top man at the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was proud of what he had done and others certainly were proud of his accomplishments and many of them were spelled out on the bronze plaque. However, when time flows into eternity, I wonder whose accomplishments will be more significant, the four-star General or the Sunday School servant whose name was Arthur Flake?

Now, one final thought: What would you like on your grave marker or what would I want said on mine? I don't know about you, but I sincerely desire and would pray that my life would have some sparkle of significance that would go on shining in the same way as has Arthur Flake's!

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

FDA declines to approve Plan B

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has refused to approve over-the-counter sale of a "morning-after" pill but has left open the possibility it might do so in the future.

The FDA cited the lack of information on the pill's effect on girls 16 years of age and younger in rejecting the application.

Pro-life and pro-family advocates, who contend "emergency contraceptives" can cause abortions and increase sexually transmitted diseases among young people, applauded the decision.

Plan B now can be purchased with a prescription, but supporters of over-the-counter sales argue the method's value is limited by the need to obtain it quickly when sexual intercourse has occurred without the use of another form of contraception. Plan B is recommended for use in the first 72 hours after sex, but it is even more effective in the first 24 hours.

Pastors express satisfaction with KJV, NIV |

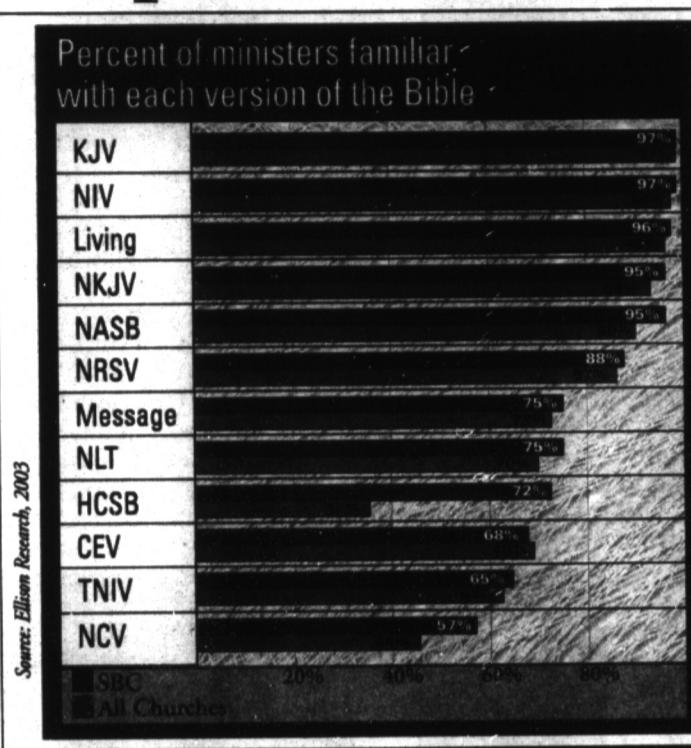
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — When pastors choose a Bible, what do they use? According to a new survey, it's either the New International Version (NIV) or the King James Version (KJV).

Among pastors in different denominations, there is little consensus. Southern Baptist pastors are split evenly between the NIV, KJV, New King James Version (NKJV), and the New American Standard Bible (NASB). Methodist pastors prefer the NIV and the New Revised Standard Version. A

plurality of Lutheran ministers choose the NRSV. Close to half of Pentecostal pastors favor the King James Version.

The study of 700 pastors was conducted by Ellison Research for Facts & Trends magazine, a publication of the LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The data, involving 12 different Bible versions, will appear in the May/June issue.

"The NIV, King James, New King James, New American Standard and New Revised Standard are clearly the versions of choice for most clergy, as well as the ones they would recommend to their congregations," Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, based in Phoenix, said in a news release.



Version (13%) and the New American Standard Bible (10%).

- Southern Baptist pastors are split evenly between the NIV (26%), NKJV (25%), KJV (23%) and the NIV (36%).

However, those same pastors put the NASB on top when asked how they would rate Bibles for use in their church. Forty-three percent rated the NASB "excellent," while 41% gave the New King James Version and 38% the NIV the same rating.

- Fifty-one percent of "non-Southern Baptist" Baptist pastors said they use the King James Version, 24% the NIV.

- Forty-five percent of Methodist ministers use the NIV, 38% the New Revised Standard Version. When asked to rank Bibles for use in their church, Methodist pastors gave an "excellent" rating to the NIV (61%), the NRSV (60%) and Today's New International Version (which is different from the NIV, 23%).

- Forty-eight percent of Lutheran pastors use the NRSV, 23% the NIV. Forty percent of Lutheran pastors gave an "excellent" rating to the NRSV, 25% gave that rating to the NIV.

- Forty-five percent of Pentecostal pastors use the King James Version, 23% the NIV, and 15% the New King James Version. Pentecostal pas-

James Version, 24% the NIV.

tors gave an excellent rating to the King James Version (56%), the New King James Version (49%) and the NIV (36%).

- Among all pastors, 42% rated the New International Version excellent. Following the NIV, which led the list, were the NKJV (33%), NASB (32%), King James Version (31%) and New Revised Standard Version (NRSV - 23%).

- The Bible versions ministers rated as

"poor" included the Living Bible (27%), Today's New International Version (18%), New Living Translation (16%), The Message (15%) and the KJV (15%).

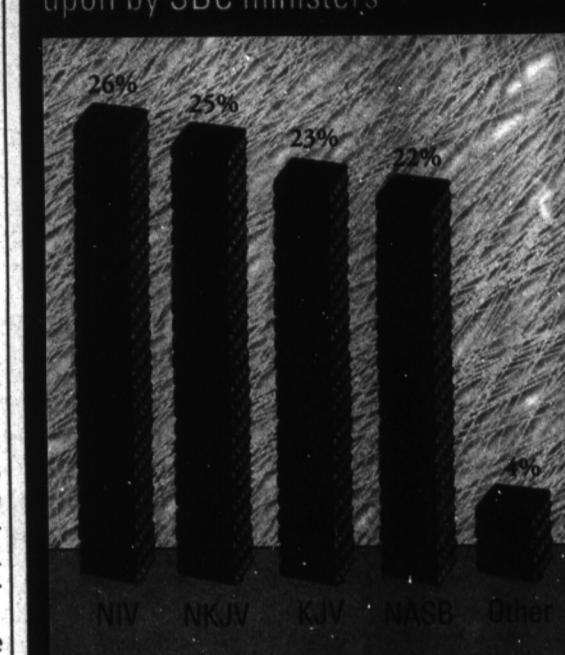
The King James Version was the only version to be listed in both the "excellent" and "poor" lists.

By geographic regions, Ellison reported that the KJV is the favorite of pastors in the southern United States.

The NIV is strongest in the Midwest and western parts of the country; and the NRSV is strongest in the Northeast.

Pastors of smaller churches and those 60 years of age and older, meanwhile, tend to prefer the KJV, the study said.

Bible version most relied upon by SBC ministers



Election's importance prompts major vote effort

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — "This is probably the most crucial election we have faced in our lifetimes," said James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

"The issues have never been more clear; the dangers have never been more imminent," Draper continued in hosting an iVoteValues.com rally to introduce LifeWay employees to the voter awareness and voter registration effort developed by the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

"It is going to be extremely significant that we are informed, ready, and participating in the process this year," Draper said, noting iVoteValues.com sets a "very needed emphasis on voter registration and education."

The iVoteValues.com initiative will help make sure every American is registered to vote and that every American understands they have an obligation to participate in the political process and vote their values, Richard Land told the April 30 rally. Land, president of the ERLC, said the effort's website, www.ivotevalues.com, is at the heart of the initiative in which Americans are being encouraged to vote their values, "not their pocketbook or their party."



ROAD READY — In addition to its website, the iVoteValues.com voter mobilization and education effort will feature a specially outfitted tractor-trailer in a tour of cities across the U.S. (BR photo courtesy of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission)

"Jesus is calling us as born-again Christians to go out into society as a moral disinfectant and to be a preservative against decay and destruction," Land said, citing Jesus' instruction to His followers in Matt. 5.

"We want to make sure all Americans are registered to vote and that they understand they have an obligation to participate in the process," he said, noting that the initiative will include a tour of cities across the United States featuring a specially outfitted tractor-trailer that will allow individuals to begin the voter registration process and to gain a better understanding of the need for Americans to vote their values.

"If we withdraw from society and we keep our salt stored away, it doesn't do any good," Land told the rally. "In order for salt to do its job, it has to come into contact with that which it is supposed to purify."

The thought that Christians should stay away from public policy issues because the

involvement might be controversial is "just plain wrong," Land said. "The Gospel by its essence and nature is controversial because it offends fallen flesh. The light dispels the darkness. The [SBC's doctrinal statement]

Baptist Faith and Message says that every Christian has an obligation to seek to bring society under the sway of the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

"I do not believe the church should be endorsing candidates, but I do believe we should be looking for candidates who endorse us and who endorse our values and our convictions," Land said.

The iVoteValues.com website will offer voters a side-by-side comparison of the major presidential candidates' values, gleaned from the candidates' political party platforms, along with aids to help church leaders discern what type of political activity is and isn't legal for a church according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The initiative calls on churches to mark Sunday, July 4, and Sunday, Sept. 26, as National Voter Registration Days.

For more information, visit www.ivotevalues.com or phone (800) 475-9127.

Partnership to be feted Aug. 16-19

The Missions Mobilization Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will host a special celebration on August 16-19 at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center in Newport, Tenn., to mark the five-year anniversary of the partnership between Mississippi Baptists and Maryland/Delaware Baptists.

"Through association-to-association and church-to-church linkages, we have established some dynamic relationships," said Missions Mobilization Director Ken Rhodes. "Thousands of volunteers have been involved in ministry that has resulted in establishing over 100 new churches."

Cost of the celebration is \$200 per person, and includes transportation, lodging, and food. Registration will be limited to 30 people. To register or for more information, contact Mitzi Curry in the MBCB Missions Mobilization Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3362 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 362. E-mail: mcurry@mbcb.org.

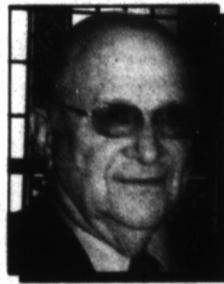
COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Staff Changes

Robert Bair has been called as minister of music for Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. He holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from Mississippi College; a Masters in Music from University of Louisiana, Monroe, and a Masters in Church Music from NOBTS.

Dianne Weaver Wirt now serves as church organist of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ from Belhaven College.

James E. Smith has accepted the call of First Church, Collins, and has already assumed his duties as pastor. Smith is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has served churches in both Mississippi and Kentucky. Smith formerly served as chaplain of the State Penitentiary, Parchman, and was the executive director of the Agricultural Missions Foundation.



Smith

NOBTS honored Don H. Stewart, Hattiesburg, April 13 at the Annual Trustee/Faculty Dinner held at the Plymposol Club, International Trademark, New Orleans, La. He was presented a plaque for 25 years of service as professor of New Testament and Greek. He is a member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg. Stewart serves as interim pastor of First Church, Glendale.



Stewart

Approximately 316 students will receive degrees at William Carey College's three commencement exercises held May 14 at 7 p.m. and May 15 at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Dumas Smith Auditorium, Thomas Fine Arts Building, Hattiesburg campus. The Friday ceremony is for graduates receiving masters degrees and Kay H. Clay, Superintendent of the Forrest County School District, will speak. The Saturday 9:30 a.m. ceremony is for graduates of the Department of Arts, Humanities and Sciences; Cooper School of Missions; Fall

School of Nursing and the Winters School of Music. Eugene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon, will speak. The Saturday 1 p.m. ceremony is for graduates of the School of Business, School of Education and School of Psychology and Jessie Smith, Dean of the College at Jones County Junior College, will speak. Cloyd Ezell, vice president of academic affairs, will present candidates and Larry Kennedy, president, will confer degrees. Guests will be seated on a first-come basis.

The Mississippi College Honors Day Convocation was held April 20 in A.E. Wood Coliseum, MC campus, Clinton. The Hall of Fame, the highest Student Body Award given by the university, honors four seniors each year in recognition of their outstanding leadership ability, scholastic achievement, participation in extra-curricular activities and contribution to student life and dedication to the serving of God and fellowman. The four stu-

dents named are Thomas Edward Blalock, Corrie Jean Cutrer, Rebecca McCarty, and Travis Wayne Schmitz. Pictured (from left) are Steve Stanford, Vice President for Student Affairs, Schmitz, Cutrer, Blalock, McCarty, and Lee Royce, President.

Approximately 168 students will receive graduate and undergraduate degrees at William Carey College on the Coast at First Church, Gulfport, May 15 at 4:30 p.m. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy, vice president of academic and student affairs at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, will serve as speaker. Cloyd

Ezell, vice president of academic affairs, will present candidates and Larry Kennedy, president, will confer degrees. Guests will be seated on a first-come basis.

Mississippi College Associate Professor of Music, Lewis Oswalt, has contributed a chapter to a new text for church music directors, *Music Ministry: A Guidebook*, edited by Donald Clark Measels of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. Measels is a Morton native. Oswalt's chapter concerns the preparation of a church music budget and he already uses the book in his classes at MC.



Stanford, Schmitz, Cutrer, Blalock, McCarty, and Royce, president

HOOMEOMINGS & REVIVALS

Concord, Macon: Homecoming and Family Life Center Dedication June 6; morning service, 11 a.m.; a pot luck dinner will follow; singing and praise, 1:30 p.m.; for more information, call Lowell Ingram, pastor, at (662) 726-5220 or (662) 726-2866.

Peach Creek, Como: 155th Anniversary May 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish luncheon will follow; singing, reollections, and testimonies, 2 p.m.; Bobby Caples, pastor; Charles Page, former pastor, preaching; all are invited to attend.

Smyrna, Hazlehurst: Homecoming June 6; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Dexter Ware, pastor.

First Faith, Batesville: Revival May 27 and 28; nightly at 6 p.m.; Kevin Crofford, evangelist; Don Brommett, music director.

Arrowood, Meridian: Revival May 16-19; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; nightly at 6:30 p.m.; Tues. is Youth Night with a pizza party, 5:45 p.m.; Nick Holden, Mt. Horeb, Meridian, preaching; Donald Dukes, First, Sulphur, La., music; Ralph Henson, pastor.

Enterprise, Liberty: 50th Anniversary May 16; morning services, 10 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; afternoon services to read church history, 1:30 p.m.; those who are a past pastor or member please plan to attend.

Sebastopol, Sebastopol: Revival May 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, evangelist; Mark Giles, music; David Bankson, pastor.

Dorsey, Mantachie: Homecoming and Revival May 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds at noon, and singing at 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Stevens, First, Scottsboro, Ala., evangelist; Randy Parchman, Dorsey, Plantersville, and past and present music directors and choir members, music; certificates will be awarded to charter members or their families; Jerry Estes, pastor.

Roundaway, Sunflower County: Homecoming/Memorial Day May 30; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch will follow; music and honors, 1:15 p.m.; Randall O'Brien, speaker; Gayden Harrell, pastor; all are welcome.

Causeyville, Meridian: Homecoming May 16; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish will be served; Mike McIlwain, preaching; Paul Barkley, music; all are welcome.

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: Homecoming May 30; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will be served in the Ministry Center; an afternoon memorial service will be held; Breck Ladd, guest speaker.

Union, Roxie: Homecoming and Revival June 27-July 2; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., dinner will follow; 7 p.m. nightly; Floyd Higginbotham, speaker; Jill and Jordan Gilbert, McCall Creek, and Carolyn Whitehead and Emma Joy Farr, Roxie, Roxie, music; Van Windom, Westside, McComb, evangelist; Carl Evans, pastor, invites everyone to attend.

Concord, Meadville: Homecoming May 23; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds will follow; afternoon service, 1:15 p.m.; Ted Bowlin, speaker; donations for cemetery upkeep can be mailed to Concord Cemetery Fund, c/o Bank of Franklin, P.O. Box 606, Meadville, MS 39653.

Union, Walthall County: Homecoming June 6; Old Fashioned Day; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; music, 1:15 p.m.; Greg Johnston, speaker; New Life, Liberty, music; Millard Moak, pastor.

Dublin, Carson: Revival May 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch will be served, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, evangelist;

Steve Walker, music; Pat Nations, pastor.

Williamsburg, Cov-Jeff Davis: Revival May 16-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Wayne Myers, First, D'Iberville, evangelist; Rick Holifield, Whitesand, music.

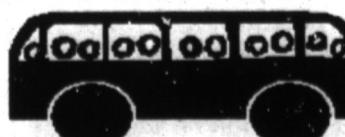
Union, Brookhaven: Revival May 16-21; Sunday, 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Greg Johnston, former pastor, evangelist; John Fisk, Sr., pastor; Dianne Aultman, musical director; Yvonne Wooten, pianist; all are welcome; for more information, call (601) 833-6530 or (601) 833-5999.

Morgantown, Natchez: 50th Anniversary July 10-11; Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10:15 a.m., 3 former pastors and 3 former music directors are guests; a covered dish luncheon will follow; for more information call (601) 442-2793.

Arlington, Bogue Chitto: Homecoming May 30; dinner at noon; singing by the Smith's, 1:30 p.m.; David Waits, Holcomb, Holcomb, and former pastor, guest pastor; Mike Moak, Tangapihoa, Smithdale, music.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Bible Drill Participants of Carrollton Church, Carrollton

Carrollton Church, Carrollton, held Bible Drill March 21. Jeremiah Burns and Caree Joe Gammill advanced to Associational and then State Drill. Both were given superior ratings. Pictured (from left, back) are Jim Tom Pilgreen, Olivia Bowlin, Bailey Maret, Gammill, Burns, (front) Joe Kelley Whitfield, and Patrick Morrison.

Horseshoe Church, Tchula, recently ordained **Don Leflore** and **Tim Johnson** as deacons. Gerald Welch, Holmes County Association, and Rob Futral, former pastor, lead the service.



Easter Celebration, Charleston Church, Charleston

and a full military color guard will be in attendance. For more information see www.centervillebaptistchurch.org or call (601) 763-4790.

Unity Church, Moselle, will hold VBS, SonGames 2004, May 21 from 5:30-8:15 p.m., and May 22 and 23 from 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Children 4-12 years of age are invited. Early registration will be held May 19 at 7 p.m. Friends are welcome. For more information, call (601) 583-4798.

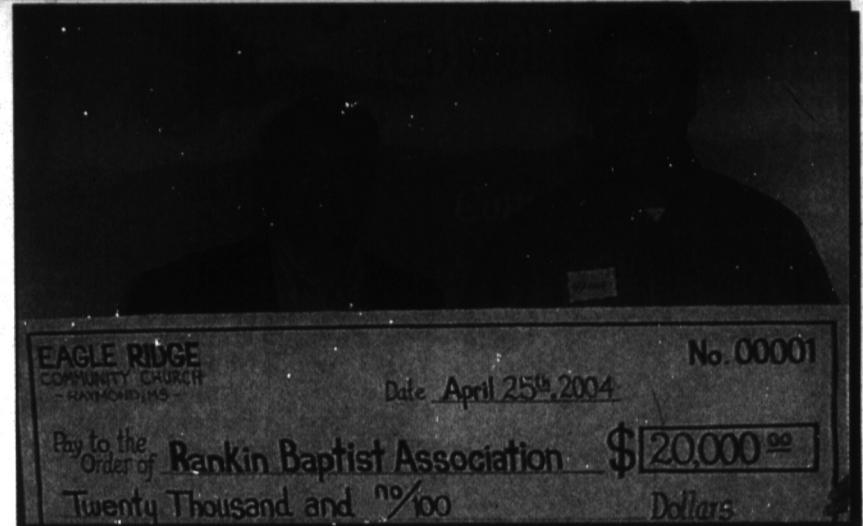
Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will hold a community sing featuring Delta Blue May 15. For more information, call (662) 895-2661.

Centerville Church, Soso, will honor our fallen heroes in a Memorial Day Tribute Service May 30 at 10:30 a.m. Major General Webb Nix MSG (Ret.) will be speaking. Arnold Flowers, a Bataan Death March survivor, is the honored guest. Robert Hilbun will serve as Master of Ceremonies for this tribute. Ginger Stevens will present the National Anthem.

Union Church, Union Church, exceeded their \$1,500 Annie Armstrong goal and gave \$1,625. Ben Presnell is pastor.

Magnolia Church, Laurel, recently participated in Bible Drills. The participants were Jamison Hayes, Cody Flynn, A.C. Smith, and Sean Pellegrin. Gail James is the leader.

Twenty-two senior adults of First Church, McLaurin, enjoyed a trip to Belingrath Gardens April 22. They had lunch and a time of fellowship at an Alabama welcome center.



Guy Hughes and Bryan Presson, pastor



Pleasant Hill Easter Egg Hunt, Carthage



four miles south of Raymond on Highway 18.

Picnic to Camp Lakeside followed. Mark Vincent is pastor.

First Church, Charleston, recently held Super Saturday celebrating Easter weekend with a He is Risen Balloon Launch, egg hunt, games, and activities with 300 in attendance. This was one week following High Attendance Sunday where the goal of 200 was met with 274. A First Family

Pleasant Hill Church, Carthage, recently held their annual Easter egg hunt and party. They made crafts and had snacks. Pictured (from left, front) are Josh Lathem, Alexa Johnson, Austin Lathem, Emily Thomas, Adam Thomas, (back) Savanna Alford, Taylor Lathem, Graham Scott holding Gunter Scott, and Jake Rawson.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Branch Church, Morton, recently held a reception honoring Michael Giles for 5 years of service.



Colby Hipps & Tina O'Brien

Ten GAs from Star Church, Star, who completed a WorldVenture Activity Book were honored March 21.

Pictured (from left, front) are Abby Irwin, McKenzi Bynum, Lauren Sanders, (back) Jenny Bullard, Jenna Best, Mary Kathryn Bryant, Ashley Bullard, Mary Bullard, and Olivia Glass.

New Hope Church, Sumrall, held an appreciation for George Gerald Aultman and his wife April 10. He was presented with a plaque.

Monticello Church, Monticello, held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new family life center April 4. Taking part in the ceremony are pictured (from left) Jamie Harvey, Paul Jackson, Karen Hill, Bill Jones, Jimmy Jackson, Jon Daniels, pastor, Jason Wade, Charlotte Ready, Joan Jolly, Elaine Boyd, Dyan Todd, and Mary Frances Boyd.

Children and youth of Drew Church, Drew, recently participated in State Bible Drill, Batesville. Pictured (from left) are Joseph Cummins, Conner Pounders, Tiffany



The Giles

Putman, Charlie House, Matthew McCool, Timothy Melton, Jon-Paul Phillips, and Anna Melton.

Friendship Church, Ecru, recently broke ground for phase two of their \$1.8 million total reconstruction project of their facilities. Buster Wilson is pastor.

Glendale Church, Glen, have had seven Sunday School classes increase during their Sunday School growth campaign, 205 by 2005. Pictured are the teachers who had class increases during March.



GAs of Star Church, Star



Glendale Church Teachers, Glen



The Aultmans



Drew Church Bible Drill Participants, Drew



Mt. Vernon Children in Action, Meridian



Drew Church Bible Drill Participants, Drew

Colby Hipps and Tina O'Brien, Central Church, McComb, participated in the Children's State Bible Drills at First Church, Brookhaven, April 13. They received certificates of superior rating. Tracey Hipps is pastor.

The Children in Action of Mt. Vernon Church, Meridian, led a March churchwide WMU mission project, Pure Water, Pure Love, for missionaries' water filters. The Men's class donated \$250 and the children collected \$119.93. Pictured (from left) are Cody Freeman, Earl Duke, Nicholas Copelton, Megan Chatham, Dusty Freeman, Suzy Hendley, Miranda Chatham, Cruz McNeal, Chris Nelson, and Jacob Howse.

Houston Road Church, Laurel, recently celebrated a note burning retiring their indebtedness. Herschel Bragg brought the message. Letters from former pastors were read and Greg Winningham, former pastor, was in attendance. Following lunch, The Houston Boys were featured in an afternoon sing. Larry Welborn officiated. Pictured are the church members present and the deacon body.



Friendship Church Ground Breaking, Ecru



Glendale Church Sunday School Teachers, Glen

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CORRECTION

Editor:

I am writing to correct factual errors you added to two articles about NOBTS/sole membership attributed in whole or in part to Baptist Press. You wrote: "The Executive Committee has asked Southern Baptist entities under its control to legally designate the Executive Committee as the "sole member" ... essentially meaning that Executive Committee could override the trustees of an institution."

"... Kelley and several members of the school's trustee body have expressed concerns about concentrating absolute control of the seminary in the hands of the EC."

The Executive Committee (EC) does not control any entity. SBC Bylaw 18.E.(9) explicitly states: "The Executive Committee shall not have authority to control or direct the several boards, entities, and institutions of the Convention." This is the responsibility of trustees elected by the Convention and accountable directly to the Convention."

The EC has not asked entities to name the EC as "sole member." Entities have changed their charters to name the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) as the sole member of their respective corporations. Sole membership does not change the relationship between an entity and the EC.

Finally, suspicions "about concentrating absolute control of the seminary in the hands of the EC," are misplaced. Such is not possible with the organizational structure and administration in the SBC. It is crucial that Southern Baptists be properly informed that only the SBC in annual session, and not the EC, can exercise the rights of the sole member.

Will Hall, Exec. Editor
Baptist Press, Nashville

NO GOSSIP HERE

Editor:

When will it ever end? I have received degrees from two Southern Baptist seminaries — Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) and New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS). Although during my time there I observed certain things about each institution that troubled me, I was able to not only obtain my objective of graduation but also learned various disciplines of faith not taught in the classroom.

Now that I have been in ministry for over 20 years I have learned a number of things not taught in the classroom. One of the most important is that ministers are often judged by the actions that they have never committed and some they do because of certain convictions. I'm sure most every minister can identify with this statement.

However, the current situa-

tion with the Executive Committee (EC) and NOBTS leaves no room for gossip. The EC has once again and continues to make everything under the sun their business. Just as the Cafe' Du Monde incident changed Southern Baptist life forever, the EC has ruined the "autonomy" of the Southern Baptist institutions of education and now they are trying to choke the life out of NOBTS.

I can't help but wonder how Jesus would look at the political struggle and respond. I suppose in a way he might say as he said to Nicodemus late one night, "Why should I tell you about the things of heaven when you don't even grasp what I say about the here and now on earth."

Trying to get up off the killing floor,

John Brashier, pastor
Calvary Church, Jackson

ADD TO PRAYERS

Editor:

Your editorial, Pray like it's World War III (April 22 issue), is timely. The call to prayer is needed desperately. I am convinced that you are correct in your observation that many of us are not taking the war seriously enough. It is too far away, and many of us do not have people directly involved in conflict.

There are some statements in your editorial, however, that concern me. For example, I wonder how you can say that the present war has resulted in the toppling of two radical regimes that were directly involved in the devastating events of 9/11. I have no doubt that Iraq had a radical regime. I do question seriously the assumption that the regime was involved in 9/11. The evidence for such a statement is sorely lacking. I am also concerned about the much too easy equation you seem to make between America and Christianity.

Appropriately, you mourn the deaths of many brave and selfless American soldiers. So do I, but should we not also mourn the tragic deaths of multiplied thousands of our "enemies"?

Respectfully, I ask that we add some things to your call to pray that the forces of darkness will not succeed. Let us pray for our enemies. Let us pray for the innocent victims of war wherever they live and whatever their nationality or religion. Let us pray for world leaders, including our own, that they will earnestly work for peace with justice in our world.

Dick Allison, pastor
University Ch., Hattiesburg

TRUTH IN PRINT

Editor:

A short note of thanks for your editorial in the April 24 issue entitled, Pray like it's World War III. I appreciate your saying, "...we are in World War III" and

we'd best start acting like (it)."

It seems that many people in the population in general, many church members and leaders, many in high places in government, and even many people in the military services are having trouble dealing with the fact that "we are in World War III."

Thank you for being politically incorrect enough to lay out the truth. Though I doubt that you've convinced many, it needed to be said. It is refreshing to see the truth in print every once in a while; I'm glad that it came from a Mississippi Baptist publication.

Robert M. Moore Sr.
USMC (Ret.)
Morgan City

Editor's note: Moore is pastor of Morgan City Church, Mid-Delta Association.

CHANGE NAME

Editor:

I read the article by Jim Futral related to the change of name of "Southern" Baptist (Directions, April 29). I think that is the greatest thing that could happen to us. We are truly more than "Southern." If anything, we are "International" Baptists.

About four years ago, I was part of a mission trip to South Dakota. I went as the nurse that I am, hoping for the opportunity to perform blood pressure screenings and blood glucose screenings as an avenue of meeting people on the street and in local businesses. We even took Mississippi catfish and had a fish fry for the town's people.

It was very difficult trying to speak to people anywhere. On the street, they wanted to know what we were doing but they shied away when the word, "Southern" Baptist was mentioned, as though we might handle snakes or some such. They did not really show up in any number to speak of for fish fry or for Vacation Bible School.

As Futral mentioned, perhaps the time has come (for the name change) if we are to be international. After all, we have an International Mission Board. Why not name ourselves "International Baptists?"

Betty Newsom
Sontag

BE BAPTIST

Editor:

I would like to thank David Michel for his April 22 Guest Opinion entitled, On Mission, On Line. I would like to suggest that one huge factor in church members not being educated about Cooperative Program (CP) is our failing to properly carry out church training.

Somewhere, somebody likes to keep changing things, and when Church Training was changed to Discipleship Training, intended or not just

about everything about it changed. Now we teach short term courses of all kinds. These studies are all right — I don't want any reader to think I have a problem with them — but they are not nor should they be the total sum of our church training curriculum. Let's look at what church training is supposed to be. We need to learn about doctrine, ethics, polity, theology, and history.

We need to get back to real church training. The time has come for church members to leave Sunday fishing, get out of the deer stand and off the turkey hunt, take our children off the ball fields, turn off the TV, and get to church training. Let's get back to the practice of what we are. We are God's children (who) happen to be Baptist. Stop blaming our shortcomings on the literature. Who knows? If you ever really study what is made available, you might change your mind.

One last thing: Let's stop trying to appear as those other guys and be what we are — Baptists!

W. Joseph Abel
Missions Director
Leake Association

THINK FOR OURSELVES

Editor:

About the Baptist World Alliance (BWA):

- BWA is a foundation of Baptist churches in the entire world. Some of the greatest men our denomination ever produced were present to assist at the birth.

- BWA messages are those that reflect the honest convictions of sincere men — the truth proclaimed from every Baptist pulpit. The only way one can enter the family of Christ is through new birth, which underlies all Baptist teaching.

- BWA themes are Christ-centered.

- BWA speakers are likely to express the mind of Baptists in general.

- BWA resolutions naturally carry great moral authority, coming as they do from a congress so representative of Baptists in the entire world.

- BWA was accused of "dangerous and aberrant theology" and refused an opportunity to respond.

- BWA's accusers have evidently not been to the meetings.

- BWA is a fellowship of Baptists different in color, dress, speech, and culture, but honoring the same Savior and Lord.

I pray the messengers (to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting) will think for themselves. Across the centuries many have claimed authority and the right to rule the mind and conscience of men. We each possess the privilege of thinking for ourselves. For Christians, there is still one supreme authority, even Christ.

Lillian W. Johnson
Jackson



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Nurturing Family Relationships

Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 5:1-8

By Patsy Foster

In the rush for possessions, we often neglect our relationships, the most precious part of our lives. Parents often lavish their children with gifts, yet give them little of their time; while children sometimes view parents as a source of income to get what they want. Life is not a bowl of cherries. As our lives grow more complicated with the changing of life's seasons, we need more than ever the wisdom of God concerning family relationships.

In Ephesians 6:1 children are commanded to obey their parents in the Lord, for this is right. Not only do obedient children help the well-being of a home, but society also benefits as these children mature into adults who know how to submit to God-ordained

authority. If any parent commands his child to break the law or forbids them to pray or worship God, the child is not bound to obey.

Children are also commanded to honor their parents. This is the fifth commandment and the first commandment with promise. We are told that in its keeping, it will be well with us and that well live long on the earth. Sometimes children die untimely deaths because they have failed to honor their parents requests and ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time. Several years ago in another state, several teens were killed on prom night. The story emerged that one girl had been spared because her parents insisted she come home earlier than her friends.



Foster

Though she was furious with her parents, she is alive today because she honored her parents decision.

Growing up is not easy. Ephesians 6:4 instructs fathers not to provoke their children to wrath, but to bring them up in the nurture and admonition (instruction) of the Lord. Barnes, in his commentary, says: There is no principle of parental government more important than that a father should command his own temper when he inflicts punishment. He should punish a child not because he is angry, but because it is right; not because it has become a matter of personal contest, but because God requires that he should do it, and the welfare of the child demands it.

We as adults should also honor our parents, providing them the encouragement and support they need as they face the changes of life. My husband's parents were taught as children to love and esteem elderly family

members. As a result, my husband has an abiding love and respect for elderly people. We need to take time to remember what our parents have done for us and recall those things to our children and grandchildren. We need to thank our elderly family members for their acts of sacrifice. One Veterans Day my grandson invited my dad, his great grandfather, to school to share with the children about being in the Philippines in World War II. As a remembrance of that day, we have the picture of Daddy with all the little children in front of the American flag. Though he was honored by the opportunity, he was more honored by the love and esteem of his great grandson.

In 1 Timothy 5:1-8, we are told how to relate to others whom we are in relationship with. We are not to rebuke an elderly man, but exhort him kindly as a father, not harshly. Exhorting here means to urge one to pursue some course of conduct. We are to treat the younger men as brothers, the elderly women as mothers and

the younger women as sisters, with all purity. In caring for widows, families are to take care of their own. Those who do not are considered worse than an infidel. For godly widows who have no family, the church should provide them a means of support. The early church employed them to tend the sick and aged (Matthew Henry).

We need to take time to care for one another. Christian recording artist, Michael W. Smith, wrote a song in memory of Cassie Bernall, the young Christian killed in the Columbine High School shooting. After meeting her parents at a memorial, Michael, the father of five children, talked with Focus on the Family magazine about how meeting Cassie's family impacted his life. He said, It's time to make a difference. This is the time to be a better mom. This is the time to be a better dad, better friend. You never know when your time is gone.

Foster is member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Excellent Leadership

Titus 1:5-16

By Bobby McKay

The quarterback of the football team, the chief of police, the captain of a ship. What comes to your mind with these three occupations? One characteristic that each of these share is the call to be a leader. Over the past few years, much has been written on leadership. There are many wonderful resources that you can purchase on how to be an effective leader in business or spiritually. I have some wonderful books on spiritual leadership in my office that I treasure. However, we should all note that the greatest example of leadership is the Lord Jesus. While there may be countless number of insightful books on leadership, none should take the place of the Bible.

Whether or not you run a



McKay

business isn't the test of a true leader. You don't have to possess three degrees and 20 years of experience to qualify as a leader in the local church. What you do have to possess though, is the courage, the heart, and an honorable lifestyle that God can use for His glory.

In this short, and often times, overlooked book of Titus we find the Apostle Paul giving a lesson on leadership in the early church. Though not greatly discussed in theological circles, Titus is not a stranger to early Christian history. He is believed to have accompanied Paul to Jerusalem at the time of the apostolic council (Acts 15:2, Galatians 2:1-3). Titus was also one of the three individuals that took the letter we call II Corinthians to the church at Corinth. Take your seat and grab

your Bible. Paul is about to begin his class Leadership 101.

I. LEADERSHIP (1:5-9)

About seven years ago I heard a good friend preach a sermon about the island of Crete. Now you might be saying to yourself that it must have been a boring sermon. I wondered myself as he began the message how he was going to pull it off. Let me just say that if I can remember that sermon seven years later, it must have been a cut above. I have trouble sometimes telling people what I preached two months ago, not to mention a few years back!

While a considerably small island, it was not insignificant in the eyes of the Lord. In the age of mega-churches, please take note of this island. Our state convention is filled with churches that average less than 100 people in Sunday School. Approximately 90% of our Mississippi Baptist churches have less than 500 resident members. We are a convention

of small churches! There are some churches where there is more reason to celebrate if there is 75 people in the worship service than a larger church with over 1,000 in worship.

My point is this. Smaller churches matter to the kingdom of God! I have always said that while a church may be small in number, they should never be small in their commitment to reach their community or their vision for the church.

Titus was in Crete for a reason. That reason was to be a leader. Titus had the important task of appointing elders and overseers in the ongoing church work there. You will see in verses six through nine the qualifications that Paul spells out for Titus to follow in the selection process. Listen up, pastor search committees out there. Look at these verses and see if you are getting the pastor your church deserves.

II. LEGALISM (1:10-16)

We see here that Crete was by no means a cake walk. Titus was faced with real problems

that had the potential to do serious harm. The problem was legalism. Don't think for one minute that this is only a problem of the past. There is more legalism in our churches now than ever before.

Legalism is one of the choice tools of Satan utilizes to make Christians ineffective and discouraged. God is not as impressed as you may think with your lengthy list of sins that you don't commit. What pleases the Lord is what you do for Him. Don't reduce your life to a handful of man made rules and regulations.

If you are like me, you are going to sin everyday. Confess your sins, ask for forgiveness, and accept the grace and freedom that comes with being a child of the King. The biggest agitators Jesus faced on this earth were those people who valued religion and rules more than a real relationship with God. We serve the God of mercy and of amazing grace.

McKay is pastor of Spring Hill Church, Waterford.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise, include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



Volume 4

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JIMMY PORTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
jporter@christianaction.com

PHONE: (601) 292-3329

LEE YANCEY, CONSULTANT
lyancey@christianaction.com

TOFF FREE: (800) 748-1651
www.christianaction.com

• Issue 3
RITA WOOD, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
rwood@christianaction.com

FAX: (601) 292-3350

REJOICING IN HEAVEN

By: JIMMY PORTER

"The virtue which is necessary to preserve a just administration and render a government stable is Christian virtue, which consists in the uniform practice of moral and religious duties, in conformity with the laws of both God and man. This virtue must be based on a reverence for the authority of God, which shall counteract and control ambition and selfish authority. The effect of such a virtue would be to bring the citizens of a state to vote and act for the good of the state, whether that shall coincide with their private interest or not" (Noah Webster, www.ivotevalues.com).

Mississippi Baptists should tip their hats and applaud the representatives and senators who this year have passed pro-life bills that are for the good of this state and provide protection for the unborn. No doubt God, too, is pleased and the angels in heaven have to be rejoicing. Much has been written about what our legislators have not done. The media has focused its attention on tort reform, funding for education K-12, the operation of mental care facilities, and voter ID. Without a lot of fanfare, several pro-life bills became law.

There are godly men and women in the House and the Senate who, as Mr. Webster stated, possess or demonstrate Christian virtues. These bills would not be laws today if not for the leadership of the Speaker of the House, Mr. Billy McCoy. Speaker McCoy assigned the bills to committees that gave them a fair hearing. On the other side, Lt. Governor Amy Tuck exerted strong leadership moving the bills through the Senate. The unborn will find no greater friends in state government than Mr. Billy McCoy and Ms. Amy Tuck. Please know that many others like Jeff Smith, Joey Fillingane, Carmel Wells-Smith, Randy Pierce of the House and Travis Little, Alan Nunnelee, Richard White, and many, many others on

both sides of the Capitol have stood tall this year. Also, we must say "Thank You" to Governor Haley Barbour for signing these bills into law. He, too, has been very open to making Mississippi a leading state, if not number one, in providing protection for the unborn.

The bills are HB352 which includes the unborn in acts of wrongful death. HB1038 restricts abortion clinics to the first trimester. HB1612 is called the Infant Born Alive Protection Act which simply means that if a baby survives an abortion procedure, it is to be provided the same care as any other birth. No longer can they be discarded or left on a table to die without adequate care.

HB1525 is the Abortion Complication Reporting Act which will give accurate data as to the number of women who are injured by abortionists. SB2619 is the Abortion Right of Conscience Act that exempts medical personnel and institutions from participating in abortion procedures if they violate one's religious beliefs or conscience. SB2869 is a fetal homicide bill making it a double crime if the mother and her unborn are both killed. These bills are far more complex than what is stated here so please go to www.billstatus.ls.ms.us and

en our current penalties on DUIs and others that related to the liquor industry did not make it out of committee.

One bill that could possibly impact a church is HB1340 which forces convicted sex offenders to reveal this fact



to the children and youth volunteer organizations in which they work. Then the organization must reveal this to the parents of the children and youth within that group. If this situation arises within your church and you need further clarification, please call us and we will attempt to provide additional information.

One bill, S B 2 6 6 7, became law even though we opposed it. The title of the bill was "Revised Definition of Restaurant" but later became known as the "Canebreak Bill." The bill gives "Country Clubs" that meet certain criteria (acreage and home sites) the right to sell and serve alcoholic beverages even though they

may be located in a "dry" county. The question we raised is "What good are the local option laws if the legislature continues to make exceptions to these laws?" The citizens of Lamar county soundly defeated a liquor referendum a couple of years ago, and with a few dollars and the stroke of a pen, it was all for nothing. If you desire to know more about this bill,

go to www.christianaction.com, select the link "Salt Shaker" and read Lee Yancey's account of it.

This has been a very difficult year for our friends in government, so please pray for them. In fact, the Bible says, "Pray . . . for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity" (I Timothy 2:2, NLT). Once you have prayed for our leaders and our nation, get involved in the political process. Register to vote and then register all your friends and family who are of voting age. Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves . . . and the only way they could do this is by not voting." William E. Simon, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, said, "Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote" (www.ivotevalues.com).

In this presidential election year, it is critical that all Christians vote. Not only must we vote but we must vote our values. Dr. Richard Land, President of The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, states, "Vote your values instead of your political affiliation or pocketbook. Don't get stuck on a political label. Look for candidates who promote decency, accountability, and responsibility framed within a biblical standard" (*ibid*).

The Christian Action Commission can provide you and/or your association with voter registration information. Also, if scheduling permits, we will come and do a voter registration seminar. U.S. President Ronald Reagan once said, "We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow."

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action Commission updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at rwood@christianaction.com. Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.

Madison church reaches out to bricklayer



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following
prayer with God in
your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that
I need you.
(*I have sinned.*)

2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death.
(*I repent.*)

3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to
forgive my sins and to restore
my relationship with you.
(*I believe in Jesus.*)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ
into my life. From this time on,
I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(*I receive Christ as my
Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to
them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name
(John 1:12).

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact
a local Baptist church for
spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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TJ CXD HDLTJJTJL LEU

RBDZCDU CXD XDZODJ

ZJU CXD DZBCX.

LDJDTG EJD: EJD

Clue: H = B

Have fun with cryptography
and exercise your Bible knowl-
edge. A King James Version
Bible verse has been encoded
by letter substitution. The same
letter is substituted throughout
the puzzle. Solve by trial and
error. Answer to last week's
puzzle: Romans 10:11

MADISON, Miss. (BP) — In October, Robert Washington's life changed in ways he never expected. The bricklayer's truck, along with all of his tools, was stolen, leaving him without a vehicle and the tools necessary to do his work. His insurance covered the cost of his truck, but not the tools.

He went to John Temple, pastor of First Church in Madison, for help. "He came to me in private and asked for prayer," Temple said. "I asked him if I could share it in church the next day. All I did was ask for prayer."

Temple may have asked for prayer, but he received much more — \$7,200 — enough money to cover the \$7,000 worth of tools Washington lost.

To Washington, it affirmed something he had been telling his son for years. "If you give to the Lord, your time, talent, service, and goods, in your time of need He will take care of you," Washington said. "I can only thank God for the God-like people He put in my life."

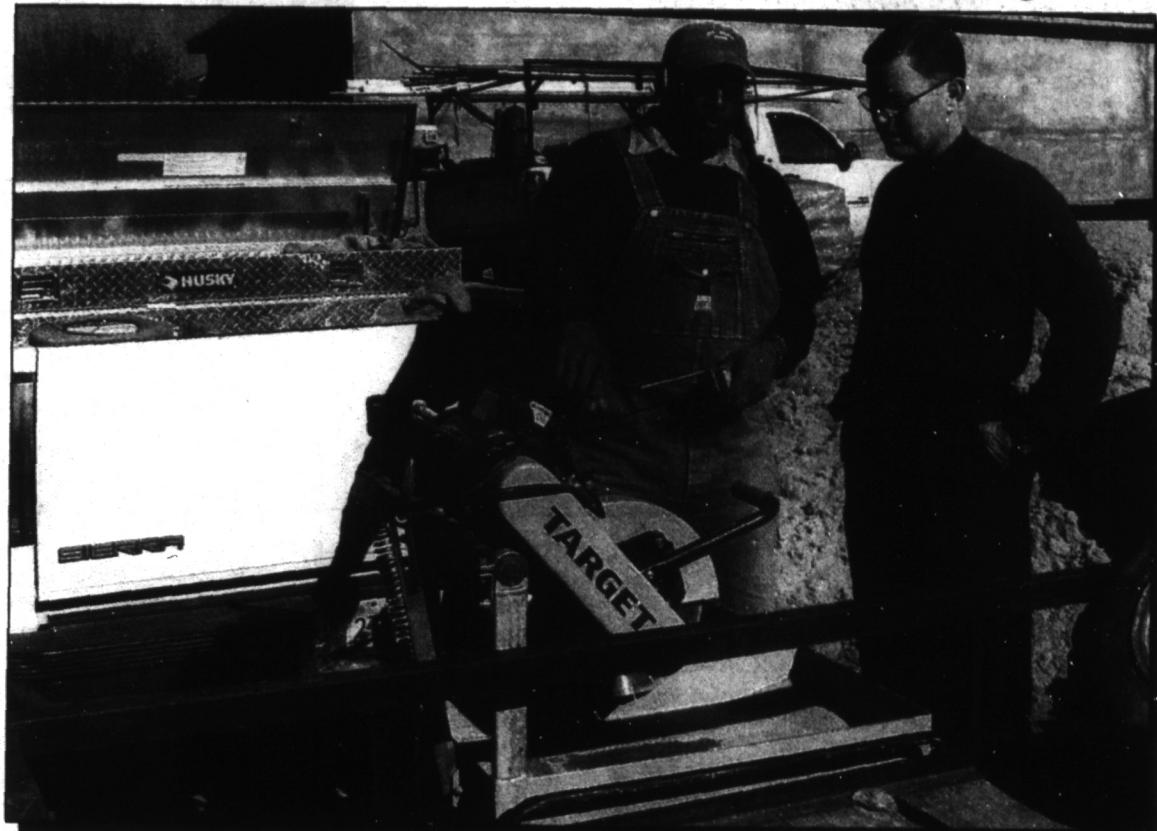
First Church's deacons operate differently than most churches. Seven years ago, the deacons asked for a different style of work than what they had been doing. Temple and his deacons formed an administrative-type model of deacon ministry teams.

In the system, all the deacons pick one ministry to focus on, allowing them to wholly devote themselves to the ministry. Instead of doing all the work themselves, they enlist the help of church members, getting the entire church a chance to serve in their various projects.

Temple attributes First Church's generosity to Washington to this mindset. "Because they had developed the habit of volunteering whenever God put a fire in their heart about something, they were willing to step up and give when it was needed."

John Dent, editor of Deacon Magazine, published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, said deacon ministry teams are good for churches, allowing deacons to be servant-leaders.

"It really follows the picture of the early church in Acts," Dent said. "Needs are expressed, and a church meets those needs in Christ's name. It's much more effective than things that have been tried before."



BRICK BY BRICK — Bricklayer Robert Washington (left) shows pastor John Temple of First Church, Madison, tools purchased by the church congregation and its deacon-led ministries. The tools replaced those he lost when his truck was stolen. (BP photo by Teresa Dickens)

Temple, who has contributed to Deacon magazine in the past, is writing "Unleashing the Power of Deacon-led Ministry Teams," a book about deacon ministry teams to be published by LifeWay in spring 2004. It examines this model and its effectiveness.

"The premise of the book is that the whole church membership should meet the needs of the entire church fellowship," Temple said. "Deacons should lead the way to help mobilize and minister to one another."

Washington's story doesn't end with a new truck and tools. His son became a Christian after he saw the love and kindness First Church showed Washington.

Washington, who had been praying for his son for years, told Temple, "It was worth losing my truck to see how Christianity is supposed to work."

Washington currently is taking extension classes from New Orleans Seminary to become a Baptist minister. He had been learning to witness to people but had never actually done it until after First Church met his needs.

"He went to Wendy's and witnessed to a lady in line," Temple said. "He told her about the church and how they loved him. That's what Jesus can do, he said."

The woman received Christ as Savior, and the Gospel continues to spread because of a church's act of kindness.

"The one thing that grabs me about all this is that it's really not about a pastor," Temple said. "It's really about a church membership, a church family, that has learned how to love each other. Because of that love, the Gospel is shown."

PBS broadcast prompts Graham to issue statement

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Billy Graham still believes Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, contrary to the impression left by a PBS Frontline special.

The question was sparked by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) series' April 29 installment on President Bush's evangelical faith, when the program recounted a disagreement between Bush and his mother Barbara on the question of faith in Jesus.

According to a statement released by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association April 30, Graham's message and George W. Bush's belief are "consistent ... that the essential Truth of the Gospel is that salvation comes through faith in Christ alone, 'for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved' (Acts 4:12, NIV)."

The issue apparently involves two different accounts by a reporter who, according to Frontline, interviewed Bush in 1994 on the day he announced his plans to run for governor of Texas.



Graham



Bush

The reporter, Ken Herman, told Frontline of Bush relaying a family anecdote. "Him [Bush] and his mother were having a difference of opinion about whether you have to accept Christ to go to heaven," Herman said. "Perfectly legitimate thing for a family to discuss. His mother's belief was, as Bush told me, sort of 'maybe you don't but more importantly maybe you shouldn't worry about it, just

sort of take care of yourself and, you know, we'll see what happens when the time comes."

Bush and his mother decided to place a call to Graham, described on the program as a longtime family friend, to help settle the issue.

Herman continued, "And as it turns out, Rev. Graham sided with his mother, saying, 'Just don't worry about it; live your life the way you're supposed to,

love everybody and move on.' Bush, however, said that despite what Billy Graham said, he held a personal belief that you have to accept Christ to get to heaven."

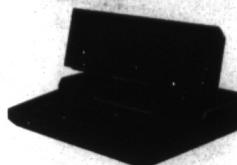
Graham's association on April 30, however, produced a copy of an article Herman had written in 1994, dated Oct. 10, which stated: "... One doctrine of which Bush is certain is that heaven is open only to those who accept Jesus Christ."

"He recalled discussing the topic with his mother, former first lady Barbara Bush, who disagreed and called the Rev. Billy Graham, a family friend."

"Billy came on the line and ... said, 'Look, I happen to agree with what George says about the interpretation of the New Testament, but I want to remind both of you to never play God,'" said Bush.

The full PBS program on President Bush's faith, entitled The Jesus Factor, can be viewed online at www.pbs.org. The program transcript is also available on the web site. VHS and DVD copies also can be ordered there.

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VOLUME 128 NUMBER 21
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

Haste makes waste for IHL trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) — the overseers of the state's public universities system — were dealt a huge setback last week in their rush to approve gambling degree programs, thanks to a lone state legislator who happens to be Baptist.

Alan Nunnelee, a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Calvary Church, Tupelo, picked up the ball dropped by IHL trustees when they hastily voted on the gambling degree a few weeks ago without waiting for the attorney general's opinion that they had themselves requested regarding the legality of the degree.

There was the little matter of Section 75-76-34 (1) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, by which the Mississippi Legislature years ago prohibited the teaching of gambling courses in the state's public schools. In 1994 the Mississippi Attorney General, Mike Moore, issued an opinion that the law said exactly that: no gambling courses in the state's public schools.

Undeterred by the 1994 ruling, the IHL trustees earlier this year asked current Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood to revisit the issue for another opinion on the legality of teaching the gambling courses. When Hood couldn't produce the opinion on the trustee's timetable (translation: while the board was still pro-gambling), trustees hurriedly and unanimously voted to approve the courses.

End of story, right? Wrong. Nunnelee doggedly pursued the attorney general's opinion even after the trustee vote seemed to make it a moot issue, and here's what the attorney general said on May 12 (excerpted):

It is our opinion that section 75-76-34 (1) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, clearly

prohibits the IHL Board from authorizing the training of "persons to be gaming employees" and prohibits such courses from being taught on "publicly owned property."

The IHL Board's constitutional power to manage and control the institutions of higher learning does not give it the power to engage in the teaching of such activities. In *Board of Trustees of IHL v. Mississippi Publisher's Corp.*, 478 So.2d 269, 277 (Miss. 1985), the IHL argued that it was not subject to the Open Meetings Act. The supreme court upheld the legislative policy in favor of open meetings, stating "Nothing in the Constitution places the Board of Trustees beyond the reach of statutes having general application to all state agencies." ... It is our opinion that the courts would also uphold the Legislature's exercise of its police powers to restrict where, how, and by whom gaming employees may be trained.

We note that bills specifically allowing the teaching of gaming employees by public institutions have been introduced in our Legislature each year for several years. Although we sympathize with the IHL Board's desire to meet the needs of Mississippi students and businesses, the appropriate forum for such a policy decision is the Legislature.

To people familiar with the attorney general opinion process, this opinion could be viewed as a slam dunk. That leaves IHL trustees with only two options: lobby the legislature to alter Section 75-

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76-34 (1), or file suit and hope a court somewhere will rule in their favor.

Going to the legislature hasn't been fruitful, as the attorney general points out in this opinion, and look for a court challenge to be very expensive for the taxpayers of Mississippi. In a time when the universities are resorting to cutbacks and fee increases to stay afloat, a multi-million dollar lawsuit would be an inexcusable waste of money.

To the gambling/political complex intent on turning Mississippi into the next Nevada, however, victory knows no cost.

GUEST OPINION: Celebrate our Baptist Associations



By Robert E. Reccord, president;
North American Mission Board, SBC

Southern Baptist Convention was established in the middle of that century. The rest is history. Associations have long served as a very meaningful

significantly to local churches and Southern Baptist life in accomplishing the Acts 1:8 challenge. Today, 1,200 associations continue to assist local

spring and fall days, and providing disaster relief help such as cleaning up after hurricanes or earthquakes have ravaged neighboring cities and states. Through numerous activities, you will see associations assisting local churches in accepting the Acts 1:8 Challenge to share the gospel both locally and globally.

The Great Commission of Christ is imperative. It is estimated that there are more than 200 million in North America that do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Accept the Acts 1:8 Challenge

and get involved by serving in your association and reaching the world.

The Baptist association faces the future with new and dynamic ways to equip churches and believers to share the timeless message of Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world. I urge you to join with

other Baptist churches in your association to celebrate Associational Emphasis Week May 16-23, 2004. Together, we can win North America and the world for Jesus Christ.

GO, Be My Witnesses!

ACCEPT THE ACTS 1:8 CHALLENGE

BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS

"Churches joined together...Serving here...Reaching the World."

way for Baptist churches to accomplish more together than they can separately.

Now, nearly 300 years after the association came to America, it still contributes

churches to do missions cooperatively and strategically. In all of these associations, you will find volunteers doing a variety of acts of kindness, hosting block parties on warm

Mississippian appointed by mission board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — God's Spirit is moving in the most remarkable ways in Southern Baptist hearts, as well as among people overseas who hear the story of Jesus for the first time, International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin said during an April 27 appointment service at Two Rivers Church in Nashville.

Lambert native Liz Moseley Butler was appointed to serve in Brazil along with her husband Stuart D. Butler, a North Carolina native. She will serve in community and home outreach, while her husband will serve as an evangelist and church planter.

Liz Butler holds a bachelor of arts degree ('82) from Baptist affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, and a master of arts degree ('87) from the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. The Butlers have two daughters, ages 11 and eight.

"Southern Baptists have shown that their passion is to reach the world, in response to the Great Commission mandate, by increasing giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by more than 18 percent," Rankin said. "Overseas, we are astounded at the way God has opened doors in places we

would never have dreamed. Your missionaries are reporting a phenomenal harvest and church growth among peoples who are hearing the Gospel for the first time."

Rankin told about a young Muslim man who was shunned by his community and disowned by his family because he asked so many questions about religion. When God led him to a Southern Baptist missionary, the young man found the answer to all his questions in Jesus. Returning to

his village, he was harshly persecuted for his newfound faith. He persisted in his witness, however, and 10 years later more than 200,000 of his people have been baptized.

"Things like this are not happening because of our plans as a mission board, but because God is moving to fulfill His purpose of bringing a lost world to Jesus Christ," Rankin said. "God is moving to fulfill His mission that one day

ly got involved overseas that God broke her heart "for the millions walking the crowded streets who had never heard His name."

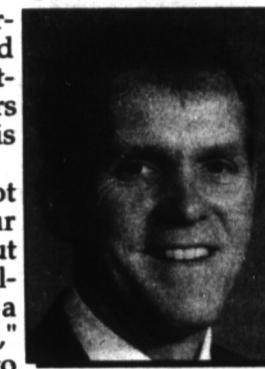
Another new missionary couple — headed to service in the board's Northern Africa and Middle East region — said the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., helped them understand that now is the time for proclaiming God's love.

"At age 14, God called me to missions," the wife said. "Twenty years later, through the events of Sept. 11, I sensed an urgency that someone must go and tell the world about Jesus. God said, 'That someone is you.'"

"Pastoring a congregation with members from six continents, I was thankful that God was bringing the nations to us," her husband said. "But after one of our mission-



Liz Moseley Butler



Stuart D. Butler



ANSWERING THE CALL — The plight of 6,000 Africans dying of AIDS each day and of 12 million AIDS orphans is cited by Troy and Tracey Lewis of Dallas in recounting their call to missions during an April 27 appointment service in Nashville. (BP photo)

people from every tribe, people, tongue and nation will be gathered around the throne, worshiping the Lamb. We're grateful that God has given us the privilege of being part of what He is doing."

Several of the 76 new missionaries appointed that evening echoed Rankin's sentiment. One man, who will serve with his wife in East Asia, told the congregation, "Through Scripture, God slowly peeled the scales from my eyes until I could clearly see His heart for the nations."

His wife said she knew in college that God was calling her to missions, but it was only when she actual-

"That chapter tells us of biblical heroes that by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword ... and put foreign armies to flight."

Like the biblical heroes of faith, the world was not worthy of the four Southern Baptist workers recently killed in Iraq — Larry and Jean Elliott, David McDonnell and Karen Watson — because their lives were focused on something beyond this life, something of eternal significance, Rankin said.

"The call to follow Christ has always been a call to take up your cross and die," Rankin said. "The price of discipleship has never changed."

Looking back

10 years ago

Southern Baptist Convention president Ed Young and 10 other evangelical Christian leaders ask President Bill Clinton to overturn a recent U.S. State Department cable seeking greater support from other countries for liberalized abortion policies worldwide.

20 years ago

W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, says he received a three million dollar "sign from God" that convinced him not to retire this year, his 40th anniversary as pastor. The gift was from the family of H.L. Hunt to be used for a multi-story building on the church's downtown campus.

30 years ago

Southern Baptist leaders polled by Baptist Press agree that the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision on public school segregation should be received thoughtfully and calmly. A.C. Miller, head of the Christian Life Commission, said, "The decision was the inevitable result of social progress based on the Christian teaching that all men are included in the love of God and have dignity and worth in the sight of God."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 20, 2004

VOL. 128

NO. 21

Evangelism on-line

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is offering streamlined, on-line evangelism helps entitled One-Hour and One-Day Witnessing Workshop. The curriculum has been completely rewritten earlier this year to fit today's audiences and is now available for free by computer. The materials currently are available in Spanish and English, with Korean and Chinese language versions planned for release later this year. The downloadable resources for each of the One-Hour and One-Day workshops include a church preparation guide, leader manual, listening guide, PowerPoint presentation, and overhead cell masters. Dick Church, manager of personal evangelism for NAMB, said that while the distribution method is a first for NAMB's evangelism team, the release also is significant because the resources are based on The NET, a testimony-based evangelism method developed by NAMB. Thus churches have yet another option to incorporate into planning their evangelism strategies. "We realize that not everybody out there is going to give you 16 weeks for FAITH [Sunday School-based evangelism] training or eight weeks for The NET," Church said. "Some folks are only going to give you a day or an hour, and we wanted to provide a resource where churches could spend an hour or a day learning about evangelism and be able to use that to confidently share Christ." The material is structured so that an individual might start with the One-Hour training, then develop an interest that would lead to later participation in either the One-Day or full NET training programs. To learn more, or to download the complete materials, visit www.namb.net/onedaywitnessing.

Graham falls, may have pelvis fracture

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — Evangelist Billy Graham was admitted to an Asheville, N.C., hospital May 14 after enduring a fall at his home. Initial tests indicated he may have sustained a hairline fracture to his pelvis. Graham, who is scheduled to preach at two crusades this summer, was in stable condition. Graham, age 85, had been at home recovering from a partial hip replacement, which he received in January. "Further tests will be performed to assess the extent of his injuries, guide the treatment plan, and determine the time needed for full recovery," a statement by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association stated. "Rev. Graham said he is resting comfortably and expressed gratitude for prayers on his behalf." Graham is scheduled to preach at crusades in Kansas City, Mo., on June 17-20, and Los Angeles, on July 29-Aug. 1.

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(800)-748-8877
tdaniel@rivesleavell.com

PICTURES

For several weeks now we have been exposed to pictures — pictures of soldiers, pictures of enemies, pictures of jails, pictures of nudity, humiliation, degrading behavior, hate, and murder. You are familiar with the pictures. In a world that lives on visuals we have just about overdosed.

I do not know of anyone who has not been disturbed by the pictures. My disturbance over the whole worldwide debacle is so multifaceted that I hardly know how to begin to unravel it in my own heart. I am disturbed by the pictures, not just by the pictures that have been shown but the pictures that the media does not show. It bothers me that American soldiers would treat the enemy the way the pictures have depicted them treating them. It is one thing to be hard and harsh in an effort to try to extract information that would be beneficial in war time. It is another thing to subject people to humiliation involving people's actions as the tools to pry information from them. It is not right!

While all of those pictures have been shown on worldwide internet video, the beheading of the young man from Philadelphia is not shown. Personally, I don't



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

want to see it. Neither do I want to see the image of a naked Arab at the end of a leash held by one of our American women soldiers 50,000 times. If that is the way we are going to deal with this issue, let's run a split screen and each time you show our efforts to try to deal with the captives, let's show on the other side of the screen either our men being burned or hanged or our women being raped when they were captured. Or at least let's show one of the planes flying into the World Trade Tower.

The pictures from the prison and the actions that were done there were not done until after 9-11. All of these events were wrong, but we need to keep them in context. In addition to the pictures that are shown and the pictures that are not shown there is the disturbing reality that what we see from them

and what we see from our own troops is life, life in its raw, sinful reality. We are shocked when we see that our soldiers have acted in such an unprofessional and imperfect way. Hate, murder, and belittling of other people around us happens every day in the USA. Just checkout any town or city, look in most office complexes, or see what happens in the top echelons of our corporate world and there it will be.

Our President says that is not the way that Americans are. I wish that he was right, but I know that he is wrong. It is the way that those Americans acted whether under order or on their own. It is the way that many Americans act day by day. It is the way some Americans who

are Christians and a part of our churches act even in the church context. Whatever it takes to hurt and humiliate, to defame and discourage someone else they are willing to do. Maybe the most painful part of the pictures and the non-pictures is that we are seeing our own reflection. I certainly know that all of the troops that are in Iraq, all of the people around me day in and day out whether at home or church or work or out on the road, are not that way. However, I know that I have met enough mean spirited and wrongly motivated people to realize that they are a part of our American family like it or not.

Maybe the most important thing about the pictures, the pictures we see and the pictures we hear about, is that they remind us that we have a spiritual problem. It is not an economic problem, or a government problem, or an oil problem, or a military problem. Inside all of us is a spiritual problem called SIN. The only answer is JESUS!

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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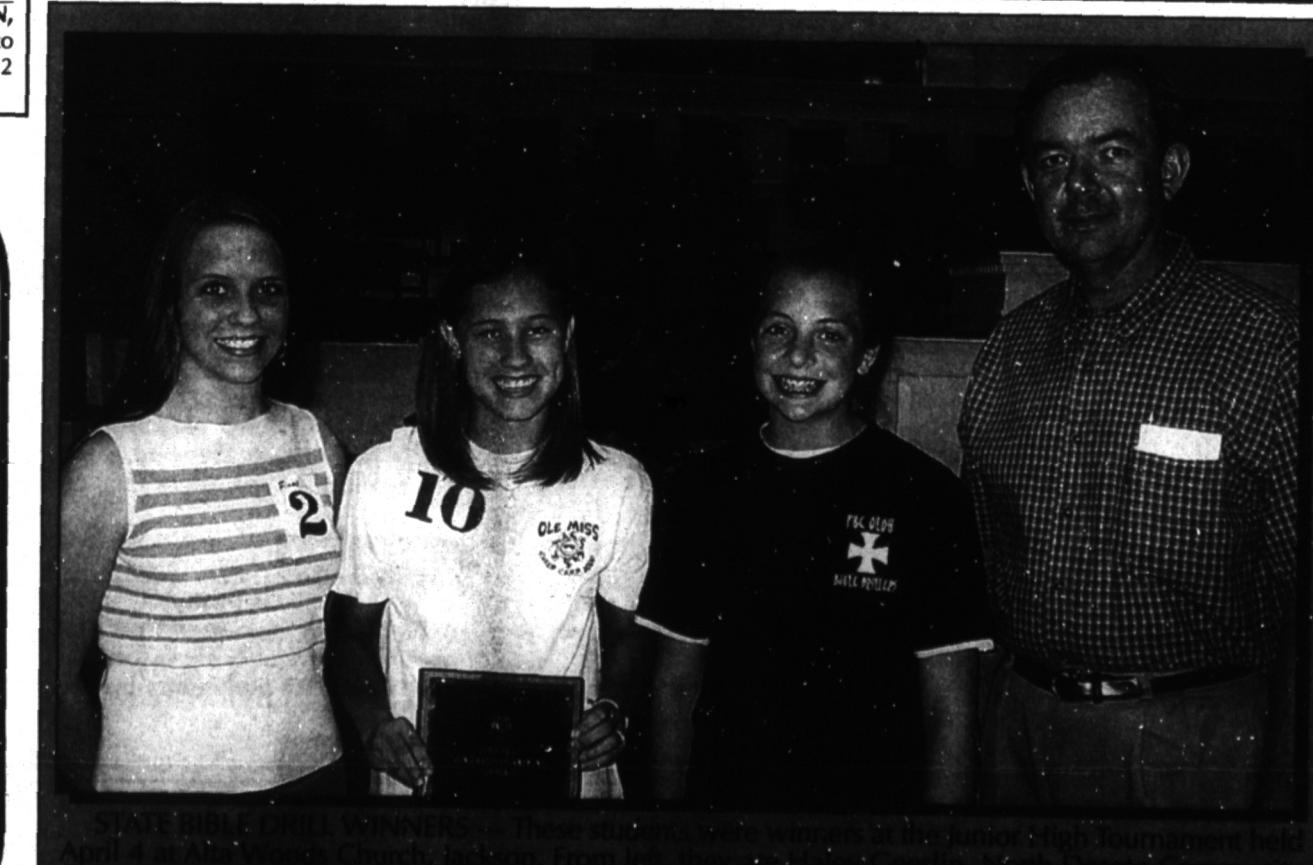
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STATE BAPTIST CHILL WINNERS — These students were winners at the junior high tournament held April 4 at All Souls Church, Jackson. From left, they are Haley Geelin, North DeSoto Community Church, second place; Laura Holt, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, first place; Emily Cobia, First Church, Oxford, second place. Marcus Peagler (right) Discipleship and Family Ministry Director at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, congratulates the winners. (UK photo by Lorraine Young)

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 20, 2004

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

Ministry from the Heart

Church Library Ministry Retreat

WORSHIP LEADERS



R.L. and Beth Sigrest bring 35 years of experience in music evangelism. Staying abreast of dynamic contemporary music, yet cherishing the rich treasure of traditional Christian music, hymns, and Gospel songs, they reach out for the hearts of all ages in their ministry.

R.L. and Beth currently live in Yazoo City, Miss., and are members of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City.

A gifted tenor soloist, R.L. serves as music worship leader and choir director in their crusades.

Beth, keyboard artist and vocalist, is also a ventriloquist. She and FRANNIE appear before a wide range of audiences.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

2:00 p.m. Registration
5:00 Supper
6:15-7:15 Conference 1
7:30 Worship
8:45 Ice Cream Fellowship

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

6:45 a.m. Morning Devotion
7:30 Breakfast
8:45-10:15 Conference 1 conclusion
10:15-10:45 Break
10:45-12:15 p.m. Conference 2
12:15 Lunch
1:30-5:00 Art Exhibit - Dresden
5:00 Supper
6:15-7:15 Conference 2 conclusion
7:30 Worship
Watermelon Fellowship

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

7:30 a.m. Morning Devotion (Pier)
8:00 Breakfast
9:00-10:15 Conference 3
10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:45 Conference 3 conclusion
Noon See Ya next year!

For more info, contact
Communication Services
at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3378.

June 3 - 5
Camp Garaywa
Patterson Place

June 3, 2 p.m. thru June 5, noon

Special points of interest:

- R.L. and Beth Sigrest, worship leaders
- Sightseeing Tour - DRESDEN
The Glory of Baroque

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTIONS

CONCOURSE

Led by Eva Nell Hunter

"Concourse 101" and "Concourse 202" together will get a comprehensive look at the ease of library management using the features of this software.

CATALOGING WITH DEWEY

Led by Eva Nell Hunter

Explore detailed principles of classification and cataloging with Dewey.

CLASSIFICATION WITH SEARS

Led by Eva Nell Hunter

Explore how to find the key word one time and apply to both classification and subject headings.

PROCESSING-MEDIA PREPARATION

Led by Hope Ferguson

Common procedures of processing any type of media. Using basic steps to produce the end result: getting the media into the hands of the people in your church.

CIRCULATION

Led by Hope Ferguson

Learn to compile a convenient desktop reference of your entire library's vital information using the Church Media Library Desk Book.

PROMOTION ON A SHOESTRING

Led by Hope Ferguson

Communicate the gospel through promotion. Look at what we promote vs. how we promote.

CONFERENCE LEADERS

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Ferguson

Library director
First BC
Natchitoches, La.

Eva Nell Hunter

Library director
Central BC
Decatur, Ala.

National church library
specialist
Church Library program
LifeWay, Nashville, Tenn.

SuperSummer

MISSISSIPPI
JULY 12 - 16, 2004

featuring



What is Super Summer?

Fred D. Lynch
Worship Leader

Chris Davis
Music Leader

Super Summer is:

- twenty hours of discipleship/evangelism training
- a week of challenge for students to learn how to "penetrate their culture"
- creative, interactive and incredible
- a "don't miss" opportunity
- leadership ... envisioning how your choices and actions today may influence you tomorrow

Guidelines for all students

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. DiscipleGroup, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 2004, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.
9. Journal how you are growing in your walk with Christ (i.e. prayer, scripture memorization, struggles, joys, etc.).
10. First year students: you must be involved in a "small group" study or accountability group prior to Super Summer.
11. Second year students: express in 100 words or less your level of commitment to Christ and how you are involved in leadership in your church and community. Please give to your youth minister.

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please give us a call, and we will try to help you in any way that we can. Super Summer is an incredible experience, and we want to do all we can to keep that standard high. These guidelines help in many ways. Thanks for your attention to the details of these guidelines.

TO REQUEST A REGISTRATION PACKET

Call us at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 283, or E-mail us at redwards@mbcb.org

MISSISSIPPI Baptist

Youth Night

featuring



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Growing Churches 2004

There is strength in multiple strands!

"... A cord of three strands is not easily broken." *Eccl. 4:12*

"United in Ministry"



July 29-31
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
with
Jim Futral
executive director-treasurer
MBCB



August 6-7
Lake
Tiak O'Khata
with
Tommy Mitchell
AMD
Gulf Coast Baptist Association



Sponsored jointly by the
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department and
Sunday School Department
For more info on July 29-31, call 601-292-3373
For more info on August 6-7, call 601-292-3374

JESUS ... in me
Gulfshore
Music Leadership Conference

Camp Pastor
Gary Richardson

Enjoying God in God-Centered Biblical Worship
Don Whitney

Conducting
Milfred Valentine

Small Church Resources
Jimmy McCaleb

Piano
Cindy Berry

Organ
Becky Lombard

Instrumental
David Young

Youth
Gloria Barnes

Handbells
Phillis Kirk & Jerry Tally

Preschool/Children
Darlene Abbott

Rhonda Edge Buescher

Kay Payton

Bill Barnes

Gloria Barnes

Barry Tweedy

Debbie Wren

**Sharing the Song of Jesus**

To make reservations, please contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at 228-452-7261. For more info on program, call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3267 in Jackson.

FAMILY WEEK

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- Brian Neal & Band, Monticello
- Tim Morrison, Monticello Chalk Art/Music
- FBC, DeRidder, La., Puppets/Mime/Clowns

EVENTS:

- Ice Cream/Watermelon Fellowship
- Night Swimming
- Bar-b-que cookout
- Afternoons will be FREE

CONFERENCES:

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN

- TeamKID

TEENAGERS

- Mini Centrifuge
Craig Brown, Jackson Colonial Heights BC, Jackson Minister of Students

ADULT CONFERENCES

- Single Parenting
James Haynes, FBC, Biloxi
- Couples
Dwight and Kay Faulkenberry Philadelphia (Pathway Ministries)
- "Love Languages of God"
Tom Prather, MBCB

Family Week Registration

IMPORTANT: A \$50 deposit per person/ \$100 per family is required to reserve a spot.

MAIL TO: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571 (Visa/MasterCard are accepted.) For more information call 228-452-7261. Make checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Name of Adults _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Children's names/birthdays _____

Church _____ Association _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(Note: No Skateboards or roller-blades)

"A" Unit

Adult: \$138.25 (1 or 2)

Youth: \$138.25 (12 yrs. - 12th grade)

Child: \$71.88 (2-11 yrs.)

"C" Unit

\$122.50 (4 or more)

\$76.00 (12 yrs. - 12th grade)

\$48.25 (2-11 yrs.)

Leaders

H.B. London, Jr. - vice president of Outreach and Pastoral Ministries for Total Ministry

and Linda, minister of music

Children

Supervised care will be made

for infants, children and youth

Registration and

lodging is unlimited

available private accom-

modation

• Registration must be

done

Cost

2 nights lodging and 6 meals

• Adults: \$97.75 per person

• Ages 12 & up: \$56.55 per person

Pastor and Wife Retreat

For more info, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.

Sunday School Directors' Workshops

Monday, June 7
38th Ave. Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Tuesday, June 8
Belden Baptist Church, Tupelo
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Additional Sunday School Director Training events:

May 18 FBC, Starkville
May 18 Emmanuel BC, Grenada
May 24 FBC, Gulfport
May 24 Easthaven BC, Brookhaven
May 25 Northcrest BC, Meridian
May 25 Highland Colony BC, Ridgeland
June 1 North Oxford BC, Oxford

Times in all locations: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Each church represented will receive training in the use of the Coach's Guide for Sunday School. These conferences will be led by the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more info, call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291.

No cost for these events
No registration required

Both of these conferences will be led by Wayne Etheridge, a Sunday School/FAITH specialist from LifeWay Church Resources in Nashville. He served as a Sunday School director, minister of education, and pastor before going to Nashville to serve in the Sunday School Department. Wayne's specialties are in the area of organizing and growing a Sunday School. Each church represented will receive a copy of

A Coach's Guide to Sunday School:
A Sunday School Director's Manual.

2004 State Youth Keyboard Festival

The State Youth Keyboard Festival was held Saturday, February 28, 2004, at Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson. Many thanks to the church and Margaret McKenzie for being such gracious hosts for these piano and organ participants as they shared their gifts through the playing of hymns, arrangements, and traditional literature.

All students were awarded a summer scholarship to a Baptist sponsored event of their choice. Some have chosen All-State Youth Choir and others, Heartsong. These are two wonderful events for youth made possible through your contribution to the Cooperative Program.

Seniors who were eligible for a \$200 college music scholarship award are: Lindsay Hope Palmer, Tabatha Ash, Carlena Speed, and Melanie Huff. Congratulations to everyone!



Tabatha Ash



Melanie Huff



Kaylina Madison



Clinton R. Meyers



Hannah Nobles

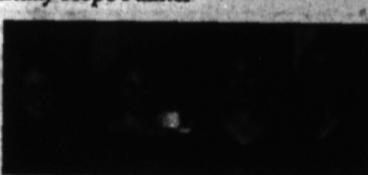


Lindsay Hope Palmer



Carlena Speed

Group Picture
Top Row (L to R)
Tabatha Ash
Clinton R. Meyers
Bottom Row (L to R)
Hannah Nobles
Kaylina Madison
Melanie Huff
Carlena Speed
Lindsay Hope Palmer



Senior Scholarship Awards
(L to R) Lindsay Hope Palmer,
Carlena Speed, Tabatha Ash,
Melanie Huff

DON'T
MISS
THIS!

June 11
deadline!

GA Mother/Daughter Overnight
Camp Garaywa - June 25-26

Cost: \$35 per person
Mother's and GA daughters, 1-6 grades
Friday, 5 p.m. - Saturday, 2 p.m.

To register:
Check with your GA director for registration form
or call the WMU office: 1-800-748-1651 (ext. 316)
or locally, 292-3316.



Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

Pray for the things that are on the Heart of God: the lost, the church and the family.

This couple needs our prayers. Gary Hogan is stationed in Iraq. His wife, Cindy, is 32 and has just been diagnosed with stage 4 cervical cancer and her chances for survival are very slim. Pray for the healing of Cindy so she can continue to take care of their 5-year-old son, Michael.

Pray for the four mature men of Sierra Leone that God has brought into relationship with Himself. These men were all men of influence in the Muslim church and in the villages. Pray that they will be so filled with God's Spirit that they will walk daily according to His plan for their lives.

For: (1) I Youth Conference, 24th - 28th, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian (MBCB); (2) Special Needs Camp, 24th - 28th, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko (MM); (3) Please pray today for Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia (eastern Africa).

For: (1) Our observance of Memorial Day as we honor all members of the armed forces of all wars who died; (2) II Youth Conference May 31 - June 4th, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (MBCB); (2) Camp Garaywa Orientation, May 31 - June 5th (WMU); (3) Churchmen Ukraine Mission Trip (CM).

Rural Haitians of Haiti are busy working in their gardens, hoping for good crops after the drought of winter. A poor economy, the dry season, and the political turmoil has left many hungry, poor and hurting. Pray that the people will see the futility of worshiping through voodoo and will turn to the living God.

The first weekend of the showing, "The Passion of the Christ," three teams in Taiwan collectively distributed 10,000 copies of the Gospel of Mark to moviegoers. Pray for those who saw the movie, asking God to speak to their hearts. Pray that many of the 22.5 million people without Christ will believe.

During April, missionaries Charles and Karen Clark in Uruguay helped to facilitate weekly discussions on "The Passion of the Christ." A number of nonbelievers came and want to know more about the gospel message. Pray as they maintain these contacts as an opening into the upper class of Montevideo.

Praise the Lord for the many Baptist college students who will be spending their summer among unreached Muslim people groups around the world. Pray that their words and lifestyle will reflect the purity and holiness of God. Pray that the deeds of love and words of truth will open Muslim hearts and minds to the gospel.

Perry Polnaszek, Chippewa Falls, Wis., works as a church planter in Wisconsin. Pray that the Lord will continue to raise up local leaders to serve 10,000 people through free medical evangelistic events in 2004. Pray that four church plants will be organized through the effort.

For: (1) Church Library Ministry Conference, Camp Garaywa, 3rd - 5th (CS); (2) David and Sharon Timms, missionaries to Zambia, began their Chifonge language study on April 26. Pray that they will be quick to learn this new language so they can move into their area of ministry along Lake Kariba in Siyavonga, Zambia.

For: (1) Hispanic Evangelism Conference, Central Hills, 21st - 22nd (EVAN/CPD); (2) Pastor JFR and his wife, H, who left their teaching jobs in Boao del Toro to go to Panama City because their son needs surgery on one of his legs. Pray for their son's healing and for their financial needs.

Nylds Hinch, Liberty, Texas, is a MSC missionary serving in the Family Visitors Center (Hospitality House) in Dayton, Texas. Pray for families as they visit loved ones in prison to know God's grace. Pray for more volunteers to work at the visitor's center.

Charles B. Dill, Pontiac, Mich., is director of missions with the Oakland County Assoc. Pray for church planters Nick Ruffer (W. Highland), Alama Diomande (French-speaking African), John Benson (multi-culture), Daniel Lee (Korean), and Toshi Miyazaki (Japanese). Pray for churches to be willing to partner in church planting.

For: (1) Single Adult Conference, 29th - 31st, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian (D&FM); (2) When a Koyaka person dies in Cote D'Ivoire, he is laid on his side, facing Mecca. Pray that the Koyaka people will turn their eyes upon Jesus before it is too late.

The music and worship arts celebration for youth



Camp Pastor
Jim Cain
Mt. Zion BC
Columbus



Choral Director
Suzanne Cain
Mt. Zion BC
Columbus



To make reservations, please contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at 228-452-7261. For more info on program, call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3267 in Jackson.



2004 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra Concert Tour Schedule

June 16, Wednesday
6:15 p.m.
Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

June 17, Thursday
7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs

June 18, Friday
7:00 p.m.
Bethel Baptist Church, Monticello

June 20, Sunday
10:15 a.m.
First Baptist Church, West Point

June 20, Sunday
7:00 p.m.
Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus

June 21, Monday
7:00 p.m.
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

June 22, Tuesday
6:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Clinton

For more info, call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3267 in Jackson.

Young Musicians Camp

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
June 26-30, 2004

Clinician – Steve Roddy

Pastor – Grant Stegall

Worship Leader – John Langworthy

Accompanist – Carol Joy Sparkman

Theme: "Praising Him: Yesterday, Today and Forever."

Music: "Special Praise for Special Days" by Dennis and Nan Allen

To make reservations, please contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at 228-452-7261. For more info on program, call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651, or 292-3267 in Jackson.

HOUSE TOPS.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



First Church, Shannon, will present Patti Hawkins in concert May 23 at 6 p.m.

Cruger Church, Cruger, will hold Family Day May 23 at 10 a.m. The Bibbletones Quartet will be in concert. There will be a giant water tunnel, giant slide, and giant obstacle bounce. For more information, call (662) 453-0009.

Poplar Springs Church, Hazlehurst, will present The Providentials Quartet in con-



GAs of First Church, Richland

cert May 30 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (601) 643-2002.



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The Women on Mission of Jericho Church, Guntown, made baby blankets and other items for Save-a-Life which recently opened in New Albany.

The GAs of First Church, Richland, celebrated the 90th birthday of GAs March 31. The

program included former GAs and Robin Keels, MBCB, speaking. Each grade level participated by quoting the pledge, motto, scripture, or singing. Celebrating with them were former GAs Elizabeth Hawthorn, Ellen Sullivan, and Sandy Ashley, GA director.

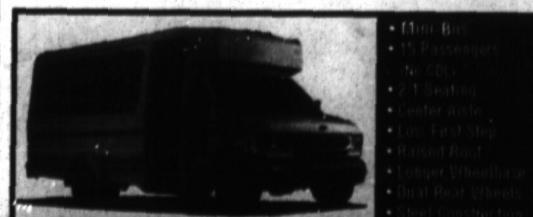
East McComb Church, McComb, held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new 30,500 sq. ft. first phase facility April 18. East McComb is relocating to Summit. Pictured (from left) are Rick Kennedy, pastor, Billy Walley, Mimi Allen, Carl Fuller, Robert Wallace, Nathan Wells, Patrick Campbell, Glen Shoemake, Charlie Stringer, and Jerry Terrell.

Benton Church, Benton, will host a church family picnic on May 22 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call (662) 673-9708. Charles Moore is pastor.

Benton Church, Benton, will host New Genesis in concert May 30 at 6 p.m. A fellowship will follow the concert at 7 p.m. For more information, call (662) 673-9708.

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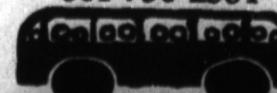
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Improving Sibling Relationships

Genesis 27:41; 32:3-5, 9-11; 33:1-5, 10-11

By Patsy Foster

"It was once believed that if parents would explain to a child that he was having a little brother or sister, he would not resent it. He was told that his parents had enjoyed him so much that they wanted to increase their happiness. This was supposed to avoid jealous competition and rivalry. It did not work. Why should it? Needless to say, if a man tells his wife he has loved her so much that he now plans to bring another wife into the home to increase his happiness, she would not be immune to jealousy. On the contrary, the fight would just begin—in exactly the same fashion as it does with children" (Parents on the Run, Marguerite and Willard Beecher).

The contention between Esau

and Jacob began in the womb. As the children struggled within her, Rebekah inquired of the Lord and He told her in Genesis 25:23 that there were two nations in her womb and two manner of people. The Lord said, "The one people shall be stronger than the other people and the elder shall serve the younger." It's logical to assume since the Lord spoke to Rebekah that she passed on the information to her husband. As the children grew, Isaac loved and preferred Esau, the skilled hunter, while Rebekah loved and favored Jacob, a mild mannered man who dwelt in tents. After Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew, he still expected the blessing as the eldest son. Though Isaac most likely knew the word of the Lord to Rebekah,

Foster

he still intended to bless Esau, following his will rather than his faith. Matthew Henry in his commentary said, "Rebekah knew that the blessing was intended for Jacob, but she wronged Isaac by putting a cheat on him; she wronged Jacob by tempting him to wickedness. She put a stumbling block in Esau's way, and gave him a pretext for hatred to Jacob." Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing and determined in his heart that he would kill him, but Rebekah persuaded Jacob to leave and go to his Uncle Laban's.

Leaving Laban after twenty years, Jacob knew a confrontation with Esau was inevitable and he was full of dread at seeing his brother again. In his distress he turned to God. In Genesis 32:9-11 we see Jacob praying, reminding God of His word to him to return to his country and to his kindred. Then he humbled himself

before the Lord acknowledging his unworthiness of the Lord's mercies and expressed his gratitude for the Lord's blessings and increase since he crossed over Jordan with only his staff. Lastly, Jacob prayed specifically, asking God to deliver him from Esau, as he confessed his fear of him. Jacob wanted reconciliation and realized that only God could bring it to pass.

Before his prayer, Jacob had already begun the basic steps toward reconciliation as he sent messengers to Esau, asking for grace in his sight. Esau came with four hundred men to meet his brother. Jacob went before his family and bowed himself to the ground in submission before his brother. His humble attitude probably played an important part in turning away Esau's wrath.

When the two brothers met, God caused Esau's thoughts of revenge to diminish as he beheld Jacob. Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, kissed him and they wept. God replaced hostility between the two with

reconciliation. A valuable lesson gleaned from Esau and Jacob is that someone had to be willing to humble himself before the other. Esau was not a godly man, yet Jacob didn't let that stop him from seeking reconciliation. Jacob acknowledged his faith in God and then did what he knew he needed to do. That faith prompted love, acceptance and generosity toward his brother.

Not every case of sibling rivalry ends in reconciliation, but it usually all begins from the same root of jealousy. Dr. James Dobson says that parents should guard against comparative statements which routinely favor one child over another. Where sibling rivalry exists, parents should ask God's counsel in dealing with it. Where there are adult siblings who have a quarrel against one another, pray for them that God will help them to forgive each other as Christ has forgiven us.

Foster is member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Consistent Behavior

Titus 2:1-15

By Bobby McKay

I recently found an old report card of mine from when I was in the second grade. The usual curriculum such as English, Math, and Social Studies were all there. However, upon further review of my academic achievements of yesteryear, something caught my attention. There was a grade for handwriting and another for conduct. I had forgotten that schools (or at least mine) graded a child on their behavior for each nine week period. What I found amusing was that the worst grade on the report card was for Handwriting and that the grade for conduct was pretty impressive. I guess the teacher felt that while my chicken scratch was hard to read, at least I didn't cause any trouble. Do you realize that God is

concerned with our behavior? Passing notes or chewing gum in class is one thing. Behaving ungodly or in such a way that is not Christ-like is not only hurting your relationship with the Father, but it also may be causing a fellow Christian to stumble. In this week's lesson Paul provides us with a challenge to practice what we preach. He tells us that our lifestyle should be evidence of God's Word and our conduct should be pleasing to the Lord.

I. THE PEOPLE (2:1-10)

No one should have any misunderstanding or need for clarification in regards to verse one. It says in the HCSB "But you must speak what is consistent with sound teaching." In other words, your



McKay

talk should match your walk. Have you ever known someone that behaves a particular way on Sunday only to act altogether differently on Monday? The word for this is hypocrisy. I have always said that the only thing worse than being called a hypocrite is to be guilty of the charge. My friends, if you sing praises to the Lord on Sunday, how can you curse your boss with the same mouth on Monday? In verse one it is crystal clear that what comes out of our mouths should reflect the truths of the Scriptures.

In verses two through eight Paul discusses all kinds of people. He challenges both the older men and women to be examples to the younger men and women. Older women especially are implored to serve as not only role models but testaments to sound behavior. Instead of complaining how bad the young people in our society are today, offer to be an

example to them. The words reverent, sensible, and pure are among what Paul says is to be taught to the younger women. Also Paul instructs the older women to teach them to be good homemakers and good wives. With all due respect, women, are you an example to the young ladies in your community or do you talk down about them? Men, you also have a responsibility to the younger men to demonstrate integrity and dignity.

II. THE PREACHER (2:11-15)

Paul shifts gears here to remind Titus what his message should be. He begins in verse 11 telling all of us about the wonderful grace of God. Let us never fail to remember that it is by His grace that we are saved (Ephesians 2:8).

Please note the Lord's grace doesn't stop there. That same grace teaches us to deny the godlessness of this world, and also should encourage us to live a life that is approved by God. In other words, our behavior should be different than that of a lost person. David Jeremiah,

pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in Southern California states, "There is so much of the world in the church and the church in the world that sometimes it is hard to tell a difference." Ladies and gentleman, when the Bible calls us a "peculiar people" it doesn't mean we are to act weird. It does mean, however, that we are to be different than those that don't know Christ as Savior and Lord. Verse 13 and 14 reminds all of us that the Lord Jesus is indeed coming again. We are guilty of getting so bogged down with this world that we forget sometimes that we are just passing through. Jesus Christ died for us and one day soon, He is coming back to get us! Paul ends the chapter telling Titus to preach and share the Gospel with power and authority. My fellow pastors, when you preach about Jesus you preach the greatest name ever spoken. Don't be timid. Boldly declare the wonderful grace of God.

McKay is pastor of Spring Hill Church, Waterford.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 1 - 30, 2004

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Collegian heading to Russia for summer

By Jeanna Graves
Correspondent

Ten years ago, Corrie Covington and her parents Randy and Robin arrived in Russia where they served as

International Mission Board (IMB) workers in the Russian Federation cities of Moscow, Khabarovsk, and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

Kamchatka, where the Covingtons have been stationed since 2001, is located on a peninsula across the Bering Strait from Alaska. This summer Corrie, an English major at Baptist-affiliated William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg, will return to Kamchatka to work at a camp in the village of Eso.

Established by a Russian missionary couple, the camp is located on a "baza," or plot of land owned with the

help of a Christian camp organization called Mustard Seed.

"This camp presents the Bible and its concepts to the children in an extraordinary and unusual way," Corrie said. "I was impressed after only working one summer as a volunteer counselor.

"One night we woke the children and took them to the woods. There, an angel appeared on a hilltop to tell us the good news that a baby was born and was located somewhere on the camp. We scrambled back to camp to discover baby Jesus in a manger in a lean-to that improvises as the camp kitchen."

On another day, the campers reenacted a version of the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land by crossing a small creek near the camp and following Moses — one of the camp leaders — along a path and onto a hill. The trek was followed by lessons about the Israelites' 40-year struggle.

"The camp places a strong emphasis on bringing the Gospel alive to children who may have never seen a Bible before," Corrie said.

Russian and other native children from age seven to seventeen participate in the camp. Two camps are held each July lasting a total of 20 days. The conditions are extreme and primitive. Only the main cabin and the lean-to kitchen have

electricity or running water. Some children sleep in tents. They bathe at a nearby hot springs or in a constructed two-stall shower shack into which hot spring water is pumped. There is no indoor plumbing, only rustic wooden outhouses.

The few cabins located on the property have been constructed over the summers by American and Russian mission teams visiting Kamchatka.

Funding for the camp comes mostly from an organization called To Russia with Hope. This organization is supported by Russian churches located in the Northwest continental U.S., from California to Washington state.

"We do receive some donations from various Christian organizations in other states," Corrie pointed out.

At age 19, Corrie speaks both English and Russian and is studying Spanish at WCC. She will be working with two teams from Alaska arriving in June to improve the existing camp. "I will be helping with the construction, as well as with evangelism in the nearby villages as a translator and guide with my parents," she said.

Covington's older brother Adam is a two-year journeyman in Moscow. Currently working for the IMB, Adam serves as media consultant for Central Eastern Russian Field (CERF), the same mission in which their parents serve.

"Doing missions is an unquestionable mandate from Christ Himself," said Corrie. "It is not an option. He said go, not go if you feel like it. Involvement in missions changes lives, plants seeds for future ministry, and brings God's Kingdom into focus for a world that has long forgotten who He is."

After graduating from WCC, Corrie plans to serve overseas as a career missionary. "For missionaries the impact is profound," said Covington. "Doing missions takes the focus entirely off of self and places it on others."

"Living this life, becomes about what I can do for God, not what He can do for me. That's something I find so easy to forget in my daily routine. Yet when I am immersed in missions work, I find myself more content and joyful with Him than at any other time in my life."

"Yes, I am challenged, but most importantly, I am more in tune with His will when I am a servant to others."

Graves is a public relations writer for WCC. For more information on the Russian summer camps, write Randy Covington, Central Post Office Box 154, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia 683001. William Carey College is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



ON THE FIELD — William Carey College student Corrie Covington (seated on chair) talks with her brother Adam, an International Mission Board (IMB) journeyman in Russia, while they were together in Moscow in December 2003. The Covingtons' parents, Randy and Robin, are IMB workers in the Kamchatka area of Russia. (BR special photo)

Mass. sees nation's first legal same-sex marriages

BOSTON (BP) — Same-sex marriage was legalized in Massachusetts on May 17, marking the first time in U.S. history that a state issued marriage licenses to homosexual couples.

The action was a direct result of a controversial court ruling from last November, when in a 4-3 decision the Massachusetts' high court said the state's marriage laws violated the state constitution. The court stayed its decision for 180 days.

Same-sex couples hope that the marriage licenses will help legitimize homosexuality in America. Conservatives and traditionalists fear that the licenses will be used in federal court to legalize same-sex marriage nationally.

"The sacred institution of marriage," President Bush said in a statement issued at the White House, "should not be redefined by a few activist judges. All Americans have a right to be heard in this debate. I called on the Congress to pass and to send to the states for ratification an amendment to our Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of a man and a woman as husband and wife. The need for that amendment is still urgent, and I repeat that call today."

"Years from now, we hope this won't be a big deal," Joan Williams, who received a mar-



riage license in Northampton, Mass., told the Associated Press, "but to us, today is a big deal. This is just a legal affirmation and protection for our family."

Tanya McCloskey, age 52, and Marcia Kadish, age 56 — two Massachusetts residents — may have been the first to exchange vows. At 9:15 a.m. Eastern time, a Cambridge city clerk told them: "I now pronounce you married under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Chris McCary, age 43, and John Sullivan, age 37 — both of Alabama — also received a marriage license. "This is the most important day of my life," McCary told the AP.

Pro-family leaders warn that without a marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution, such ceremonies eventually will be performed nationwide.

Same-sex marriage supporters hope to use the licenses in federal court to try and strike down the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which gives states the option of not recognizing another state's same-sex marriages. At least 38 states have "mini" defense of marriage acts explicitly banning same-sex marriage.

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, said he believes that lawsuits in 30-40 states could be filed by the

end of the summer, seeking to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide. "There is going to be mass litigation, which is going to equate to mass confusion," Sekulow said on his radio program. "... If there was ever a time for congressional action, this is it."

Although Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney had said couples should sign a form swearing they were state residents or that they were moving to the state, clerks in Provincetown and other localities were giving marriage licenses to out-of-state couples.

Following the ruling, Massachusetts' legislators passed a state amendment in March that would ban same-sex marriage while legalizing civil unions, but in order for it to make its way into the constitution, it must pass another session of the legislature before going to voters, which would be 2006 at the earliest. Pro-family leaders fear that by 2006, the outrage at same-sex "marriage" will have passed.

The ruling by the Massachusetts high court has led to a backlash in many ways nationally. Six state legislatures have put state constitutional marriage amendments on the ballot for a fall vote, and other state legislatures likely will follow.

Bibliocipher

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ZK NRS JSYZKKZKY HET

NRS HMAL, EKL NRS

HMAL HET HZNR YML,

EKL NRS HMAL HET YML.

WMRK MKS: MKS

Clue: E=A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis 1:1